

REVIEW OF THE YEAR
12 months of elation, tears and beginnings
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PANIC PARTY TIME
Philip Delves Broughton will be glad when it's over
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NEW YEAR'S DAY

IN THE TIMES

NEW YEAR HEALTH RESOLUTIONS
Dr THOMAS STUTTAFFORD



PLUS JUMBO CROSSWORD
Test your word skills

Elton John becomes knight of pop

Honours for the teaching profession

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

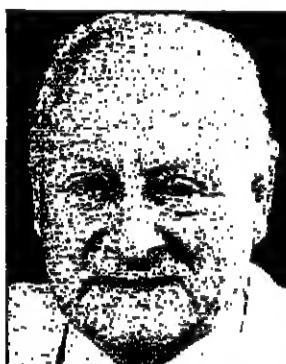
THERE is a knighthood for a headteacher, another becomes a dame and many more receive awards in the New Year Honours today as Tony Blair uses the awards system in the campaign to improve school standards and restore the reputation of teaching.

The Prime Minister has decided to focus his first full-length list on education, with 58 awards at all levels from university principal to street-crossing patrolman, and he says today that he is honouring "not only the best of the profession but the profession itself". The move comes after Mr Blair's promise soon after the election to root out bad teachers but also to give a fresh deal to the good ones.

However, Mr Blair follows his predecessors in recognising a long list of celebrities from sport, entertainment and literature, with, as widely predicted, a knighthood for the rock-singer Elton John.

The star's singing of *Candle in the Wind* at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, struck a chord with the public and the record has so far raised £20 million for her memorial fund. Many who played a part in the funeral, including the Welsh Guards officer who organised the carrying of the coffin and the driver of the hearse from Westminster to the Althorp burial ceremony, are singled out for awards in today's list.

Elton John, 50, whose work for AIDS charities is also acknowledged by the award, has risen from the depths of drugs and drink addiction to



Finney: "thrilled to bits" with knighthood

become accepted by the Establishment. The former Reg Dwight said last night that his joy at the knighthood was "immeasurable". He follows in the footsteps of Sir Cliff Richard and Sir Paul McCartney, becoming the third knight of British pop.

He is joined from the entertainment world by Paula

Clark, the biggest selling British woman singer (CBE); Annette Crook, who plays the long-suffering Mrs Meldrew in television's *One Foot in the Grave* (OBE); Deborah Kerr, 76, who played opposite Yul Brynner in *The King and I* (CBE); and Nicholas Garland, the cartoonist (OBE). Michael Gambon, the actor and star of *The Singing Detective*, is knighted, as are Arthur C. Clarke, the science fiction writer and inspiration of the film *2001*; Richard Rodney Bennett, the composer; and Terence Frost, the painter. Alan Howard, who has played six Shakespearean kings, is appointed CBE.

Heading the sports honours is a knighthood at last for the long-retired footballer Tom Finney, who with Stanley Matthews formed the finest wing pairing England has had. Now 75, he was thrilled to bits, he said last night. From the cricketing past there is an MBE for Alf Gover, 89, the former Surrey and England fast bowler who later ran a cricketing school.

Mark Hughes, the Chelsea and former Manchester United forward, and Jim Leighton, the veteran Scotland goalkeeper, are appointed MBE and there are OBEs for Jenny Pittman, the horse-racing trainer, Tessa Sanderson, the javelin thrower, and Martin Johnson, captain of the victorious British Lions touring team to South Africa. Jack Rowell, the former England rugby coach, is appointed OBE.

Peter Goss, one of Britain's most experienced racing sail-



Lynda Roberts, the determined teacher who helped a child to come to terms with family disaster, is appointed MBE

ors, is appointed MBE. Last year he turned back in heavy seas during the Vendée Globe non-stop round-the-world race to rescue a fellow competitor, Raphael Dinelli.

There is an OBE for Andy Green, the squadron leader who drove the Thrust Supersonic car into the record books in the Nevada Desert last October. He pushed the black ten-ton vehicle through the sound barrier to its limit,

setting an official average of 763.035 mph.

Lynda Roberts, 44, the dedicated and determined teacher who helped a child to come to terms with the murder of her mother and sister is appointed MBE. Mrs Roberts was instrumental in helping Josie Russell, now ten, to recover her powers of speech after the child was traumatised in a hammer attack during which her mother Lin and younger

sister Megan, six, were killed as the three of them were walking home from school.

There is a CBE for Michael Grade, former chief executive of Channel 4. Alan Freeman, 70, one of the early disc-jockey pioneers, is appointed MBE. There is a knighthood for Professor John Paterson, head of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee and an expert on BSE.

Following Labour's practice

in opposition, Mr Blair gives no strictly political honours. However, David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, is appointed privy councillor. Chris Patten, former Governor of Hong Kong and former Tory Cabinet minister, becomes a peer.

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Loyalist Wright buried by men in black

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

BILLY WRIGHT was buried yesterday and Portadown, his home town, was brought to a standstill by the men in black leather jackets he spawned.

By midday the streets were deserted, shops shut. A printed A4 flyer had been sent to all the businesses requesting them to close "as a mark of respect" for Wright. "Your co-operation is noted and appreciated," said the letter signed Loyalist Volunteer Force, a terrorist group led by Wright.

"What choice do we have?" said one shopkeeper. "If they can't stop people killing each other in prison, then there's little chance of protection for me and my family on the street."

Police had been told there would be no paramilitary trappings at the funeral and stayed away, maintaining a discreet and distant presence down side streets. Troops were on patrol on the perimeter of the Armagh town, which for the past three years has ground to a halt during the July stand-off between Catholic residents and Orangemen marching from Drumree church.

At midday sharp, buses stopped running, taxi drivers went home and shopkeepers pulled down their shutters. Then the LVF men in thin black ties took over the streets, patrolling with walkie-talkies. They corralled the journalists, threatening them with a bullet in the back of the head if they moved from their spot or photographed the faces of mourners.

From Brownstown Road, a quarter of a mile from the Wright home on the fiercely loyalist Brownstown estate, we were watched over by three tattered men in black leather jackets as the Rev William Gray, a Free Presbyterian

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Election 'rigged'

President Moi has accused the Kenyan electoral commission of rigging the general election held this week. Mr Moi, whose Kumu party was widely tipped to win the poll, accused the commission of making sure that there was a shortage of ballot papers in areas which traditionally supported his party. Page 15

George warning

The economy has been growing at an unsustainable rate and will have to slow to ensure steady growth, Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, said. Page 23

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Australia \$3.50; Belgium 8 Pts 100	
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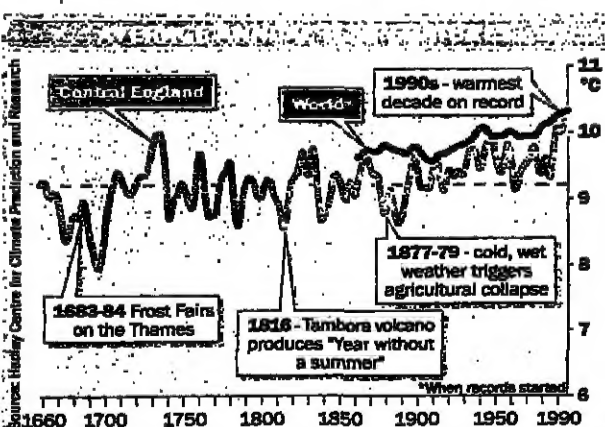
1997 was the third warmest year recorded in three centuries

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THIS year has been the third warmest in England since records began more than 300 years ago, the Meteorological Office said yesterday. Analysis shows that the mean Central England temperature for 1997 was 10.57C (approximately 52F). This is the temperature measured at four places - Maidstone in Kent, Rothamsted in Hertfordshire, Squires Gate, near Blackpool, and Ringway, near Manchester - and averaged over the whole year.

It is the longest-running temperature record in the world, dating from 1659. Since then, the Met Office's Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research says, only two years have been hotter - 1990, with a mean of 10.63C and 1949 (10.62C).

Dr Paul Mason, Chief Scientist at the Met Office, said: "We are becoming increasingly confident that recent warm-



ing on a global scale is due in part to man-made emissions of greenhouse gases. Rainfall in England and Wales was lower than normal, but not exceptionally so. Until yesterday there had been 844mm of rain, 94 per cent of the long-term average of 896mm.

Over their 300-year history temperatures vary greatly from year to year. A smoother record is obtained by taking

20-year rolling averages, as in the graph, but this still shows wide discrepancies, with some notably cold spells and some warmer ones.

Exceptionally cold winters, such as that of 1683-4, when the Thames froze solid and Frost Fairs were held, are reflected by dips in the rolling average. But a single crazy year like 1740, the coldest on record, contributes only a

small dip because surrounding years were not so cold. The average temperature in 1740 was 6.8C, compared with 9.2C for 1739 and 9.3C for 1741.

The 1810s were a cool decade, marked in 1816 by the 'year without a summer', generally attributed to the eruption of the volcano Tambora in Indonesia.

In England, says Dr David Pariser of the Met Office, average annual temperatures depend strongly on wind direction. Westerly winds during the winter, the normal pattern, will produce warmer weather. But from time to time persistently high pressure blocks the westerlies as in 1947 and 1963.

This year, he says, only avoided becoming the hottest on record in England because of a cold spell at the beginning of January.

The new year is expected to start with gales, probably less severe than those over Christmas.

Forecast, page 22

Gagging order put on Sun

THE Attorney-General, John Morris QC, yesterday obtained an injunction banning *The Sun* from naming the Cabinet minister's son at the centre of drug-dealing allegations.

The move came after the arrest on Monday of Dawn Alford, *The Mirror* reporter who broke the story.

A spokesman for the Treasury Solicitor's office said: "The basis of the Attorney-General's application, which was upheld by the judge, was in summary that publication of the young person's name would be a contempt of court, in that there is a likelihood that it would interfere with the course of justice."

The Attorney-General's office added: "The Attorney was acting independently of Government and in his capacity as guardian of the public interest."

A second 17-year-old has been arrested by police investigating the allegation of cannabis dealing by the minister's son.

They also earn who only stand and serve

By Philip Delves Broughton and Katherine Bergen

ANYONE at a new party tonight would do well to observe how the waiter balances a tray of canapés in one hand and pours champagne with the other, all the while maintaining a smile. Then they should go home and practise to do likewise.

For those prepared to act as waiters on New Year's Eve 1999, the rewards will be enormous. Demand is far outstripping supply, and a half-decent waiter ready to desert family and friends can expect to earn up to £1,000

for his night's work. Dance bands with a passable *Lady in Red* in their songbook will also be in the money, charging £15,000 for one night against their usual £2,000.

In London alone, where a normal new year party might see about 10,000 catering staff in action, demand is expected to swell the number tenfold in 1999. A no-frills wipe waiter who will earn £6 to £10 an hour this year can expect at least double that plus bonuses running into hundreds of pounds. For head waiters, chief bouncers or head chefs, the rewards will mean that they can start thinking about the Seychelles

as a holiday destination in January 2000.

Since the bigger corporate events demand a ratio of one member of catering staff to 15 guests, party organisers are building the much higher costs into their estimates and passing them on to their clients. William Bartholemew, who runs Juliana's, said: "There has been a lot of hype about 1999, but there is no staff. It is hard to get even those who are available to commit. Disc jockeys don't seem to want to work so, no dancing."

The problem is exacerbated by the sheer volume of celebrations in Brit-

ain, where millions of tourists are expected to see in the new millennium at Greenwich, home of the prime meridian. Every big venue in the country is already booked up, including some that have not even opened, such as the 75,000-seater Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

But, despite all the bustle, a survey published yesterday by Mumm Champagne reveals that 28 per cent of Britons intend to spend New Year's Eve 1999 at home in front of the television while another 20 per cent are planning a foreign holiday to escape "Durne Fever".



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Harassment law gets the bird in police swoop

Paul Wilkinson reports on a garden dispute that put a neighbour in court

A BUSINESSMAN was arrested and held in police cells for three hours after trying to deter his neighbour's pigeons from his garden. Martin Ward was charged under new anti-harassment laws, accused of singing *Come Fly With Me* at the top of his voice, throwing a ball about and erecting a one-eyed plastic owl.

Mr Ward, 35, appeared before magistrates under the Harassment Act 1997. But after one court appearance, the Crown Prosecution Service has now dropped the case. Police have admitted that the new law is causing problems.

Yesterday, the enemy seemed to be continuing over the garden fence in Rawmarsh, South Yorkshire, where Mr Ward's four-bedroom detached home stands next to the council bungalow of Tom Thornton, 62, an old soldier. Mr Thornton said: "He's a complete idiot. I'll have my way, he'll be given six months' National Service for what he's done to me."

Mr Ward, and his parents Helena, 64, and Bryan, 67, have lived in their house for 31 years. It's half an acre of garden is Mr Ward's particular joy, and he spends much



Martin Ward, left, and his neighbour Tom Thornton, who said: "If I had my way, he would be given six months' National Service for what he's done"



time keeping it well-maintained. Nine years ago, Mr Thornton and his wife moved in next door. Mr Thornton keeps 22 pigeons.

Mr Ward said: "They drop mess on our washing, dive-bomb us when we have barbecues and delight in swooping low over the lawn. Gardening is my main hobby and it is just being ruined by these pigeons."

"I work six days a week in the family greengrocery business and I have taken only one week's holiday since I left school. I have asked my neighbour to do something about the pigeons, but he refuses and abuses me."

"My mother has a phobia about birds. With all the problems, I saw this £15 plastic owl in a store. It is supposed to work as a deterrent. I hung it from a piece of string on an 8ft scaffolding

pole and stuck it in the lawn which is about 15ft from next door. It didn't work, but the next thing I knew the police called round and accused me of firing a gun at his property. I have never even had a gun, but I was given a warning."

or they would arrest me. I took it down, but three weeks later I was arrested and taken to Rotherham police station and kept in a cell for three hours.

"I was accused of harassing my neighbour and his pigeons with the owl, throwing a ball and singing in the garden. I couldn't believe it. I have never said a bad word to him. I've never had even a parking ticket in my life. Apart from putting up the owl, I can't see what I've done wrong. It seems the police have listened only to his side of the story."

Mr Thornton said: "My pigeons are of enormous sentimental value to me. They were getting frightened and I lost a couple. They don't cause any problems. Some of the birds flying around here cause me problems, and they are not mine."

"Mr Ward put up the owl and has been waving sticks and frightening my pigeons to death. He has caused me a lot of worry. Even yesterday, he was out in the garden throwing a ball up at my birds."

PC John Carr, who arrested Mr Ward, admitted that prosecutors "were still trying to find their feet" with the new law.



Unwise move: the one-eyed plastic owl which Mr Ward hung on his lawn

Bishop's son updates mystery plays with down-and-out Jesus

A BISHOP'S son has written a 20th-century version of the medieval mystery plays in which Jesus is a homeless beggar. St Peter is a ringer who swears repeatedly. Mary Magdalene is a prostitute and St Matthew is a commodities broker who lives in Kensington.

Edward Kemp, 32, son of the Bishop of Chichester, Dr Eric Kemp, has deleted the devil from *The Mysteries*, to be performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Barbican next month. He has also taken out all the anti-Jewish comments made by characters as they enact the trial and crucifixion of Jesus, making it instead a work about conflicts between believers and unbelievers.

Mr Kemp, 32, who describes himself as a "devout atheist", has warned his father, a leading traditionalist who opposes the ordination of women priests, that his five-hour production is shot through with sex, violence and swearing. "I pointed out to him that sex and violence is in the Bible anyway, and explained why the swearing is in, and he seemed to understand." Last night Dr Kemp said he was aware of the play, but refused to comment.

His son, the youngest of five children and a former winner of the Tescos oil company's most promising young playwright award, has been working on *The Mysteries* for two years. After a successful run earlier this year with the RSC at Stratford, it was decided to rewrite the production, making

There is no part for the devil, but one of the apostles is a commodity broker, reports Ruth Gledhill

ing the character of Jesus less "prissy". The setting was changed from the Middle East to modern London.

Mr Kemp, a former cathedral chorister, said: "We have cut the devil. And there is no nonsense about fallen angels and people dressing up as snakes with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden."

He described how, in one scene, titled *The King's Sin*, King David initiates a relationship with Bathsheba which is tantamount to rape. In the New Testament, Peter is still a fisherman, but is down on his luck, swears constantly and meets Jesus when he tries to mug him to pay for medical treatment for his wife.

The biblical character of the tax collector becomes Matthew, a wealthy commodities broker from Kensington who goes on to write a false account of Jesus's life. The homeless Jesus meets him when he sleeps on his doorstep. He meets Mary Magdalene in a late-night bar, where she is entertaining a client.

Mr Kemp said: "Jesus lives

without money, without a house, without a change of suit. In the play he will look like someone who lives on the money he can get from people."

The message of the piece is simple, that we are all responsible for each other and the planet. We are trying to put the audience in a place where, when they leave the theatre, they will not know whether the next person who comes up to them - whether that person is an usher, beggar or waiter - is divine."

He told the *Jewish Chronicle* that he had removed anti-Jewish references because they had seemed "awfully insulting". In the medieval plays, there are a number of Jewish characters who rejoice in the fact that they kill Jesus. That was the first stuff that went.

He described the play as "grim, dark and nasty", but profoundly optimistic at the end. Although he no longer describes himself as Christian, he said he was fascinated by faith. "I am very happy for other people to believe in God," he said. "He just isn't any use to me."

Mystery plays, a medieval phenomenon based on the stories of the Bible and the eucharistic liturgy, fell into decline after the 16th century. They have recently experienced a resurgence, thanks largely to the success of the Oberammergau passion play, enacted every ten years in Upper Bavaria.

The Mysteries opens in mid-January and will run until April.

Police dig up garden in search for mother

By Richard Duce

POLICE began removing floorboards and digging up the garden of a house yesterday in their search for a 23-year-old mother of four who vanished three days before Christmas. Vincent Shilton, the boyfriend of Liza Blunt, who has not been seen since December 22, was being interviewed.

Mr Shilton, 29, went to police to report his girlfriend missing and told them she had failed to return from a trip to buy her children presents in Nottingham. Yesterday the investigation was referred to the major crime unit and a superintendent put in charge.

Earlier this week Mr Shilton made a tearful public appeal for his girlfriend to get in touch. He said that on the day she disappeared he gave her £50 and she left their house in Bestwood Park, Nottingham, at around 10am to



Liza Blunt last seen Christmas shopping

catch a bus to the city centre. He said he had waited until later that evening before alerting police because he thought she might have stayed until the shops closed at 8.30pm.

Police describe Miss Blunt as a "devoted mum". She has

four children - Jade, five, Dale, three, Daniel, two, and five-month-old Kylie, her child by Mr Shilton. Mr Shilton, her partner for two years, went to Ox Close Lane police station voluntarily.

The couple's three-bedroom house was cordoned off yesterday while officers conducted forensic tests. The children were being cared for by relatives.

Mr Shilton said earlier this week: "We just want her home. Christmas has been awful."

He added: "I'm really worried about her. I just want her to get in touch and let us know she is all right. I've been everywhere looking for her and will continue driving round, trying to spot her. Otherwise the kids and I just sit by the phone. There's no explanation for her disappearance. We never rowed and are desperate for her to get in touch."

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Lost in the passage of time



Andrew Cotterell outside 18th-century Southill House with his wife

Simon de Bruxelles reports on a mystery that begins underneath a country house

THE secrets of a Somerset country house have turned into an Enid Blyton adventure for the new owner and his children. A series of clues have led to a mysterious network of tunnels, and no one knows where they lead.

The first clue for Andrew Cotterell and his wife Tracy was the long-forgotten memoir of a 19th-century servant, Edwin Cox, whose recollections of life at Southill House included being sent down to explore a tunnel uncovered by workmen when he was nine.

As the Cotterells wondered where the tunnels might be, a cow grazing in the field beyond their croquet lawn stumbled across a previously unknown passageway when it caved in. It leads from a sealed entrance in the cellar.

Now the underground maze is fascinating. Historians, the Cotterells and their sons, aged seven, five and three, Mr Cotterell said: "Whenever their friends come round, they head straight for the cellars to explore. As far as they are concerned, it's like something out of an Enid Blyton adventure."

The £12 million mansion, built in the 18th century, stands in ten acres of grounds on an estate between Frome and Shepton Mallet. It was earlier the country seat of a family linked with the Duke of Monmouth, who tried to claim the throne in 1685. This holds out the possibility that the tunnels were used as escape passages. Their original use may have been as medieval culverts or for storage access.

Mr Cotterell, who runs a computer company, bought the 15-bedroom mansion two years ago. He was aware of two winding tunnels leading off the vaulted cellars which appeared to be far older than the house, and there are signs of other passageways still to be found.

The most recently discovered

passage has been resealed until it can be properly explored. Built of stone, it is about 5ft high with a floor of beaten earth, pitted with marks of dripping water. Mr Cotterell said: "A little way beyond where it caved in, the tunnel has been sealed with stone. Like the others, it appears to have been built prior to the main house."

"There is evidence of medieval arched doorways and windows in the cellar of a much earlier style, and it's possible that the present property was built on the site of something far older. I intend to explore further, even if it means taking a sledge hammer to the obstruction."

The estate was the country seat of the Stoddes, whose archives record that Southill was visited by Monmouth in the summer of 1685, after his return from exile. The rebellion of the illegitimate son of Charles II ended in bitter defeat, but initially he had received considerable support in the West Country, where, in a short time, he had raised an army of 7,000 men.

After Monmouth's execution, King James II exacted terrible revenge on the Duke's followers. He dispatched the notorious Judge Jeffreys, the



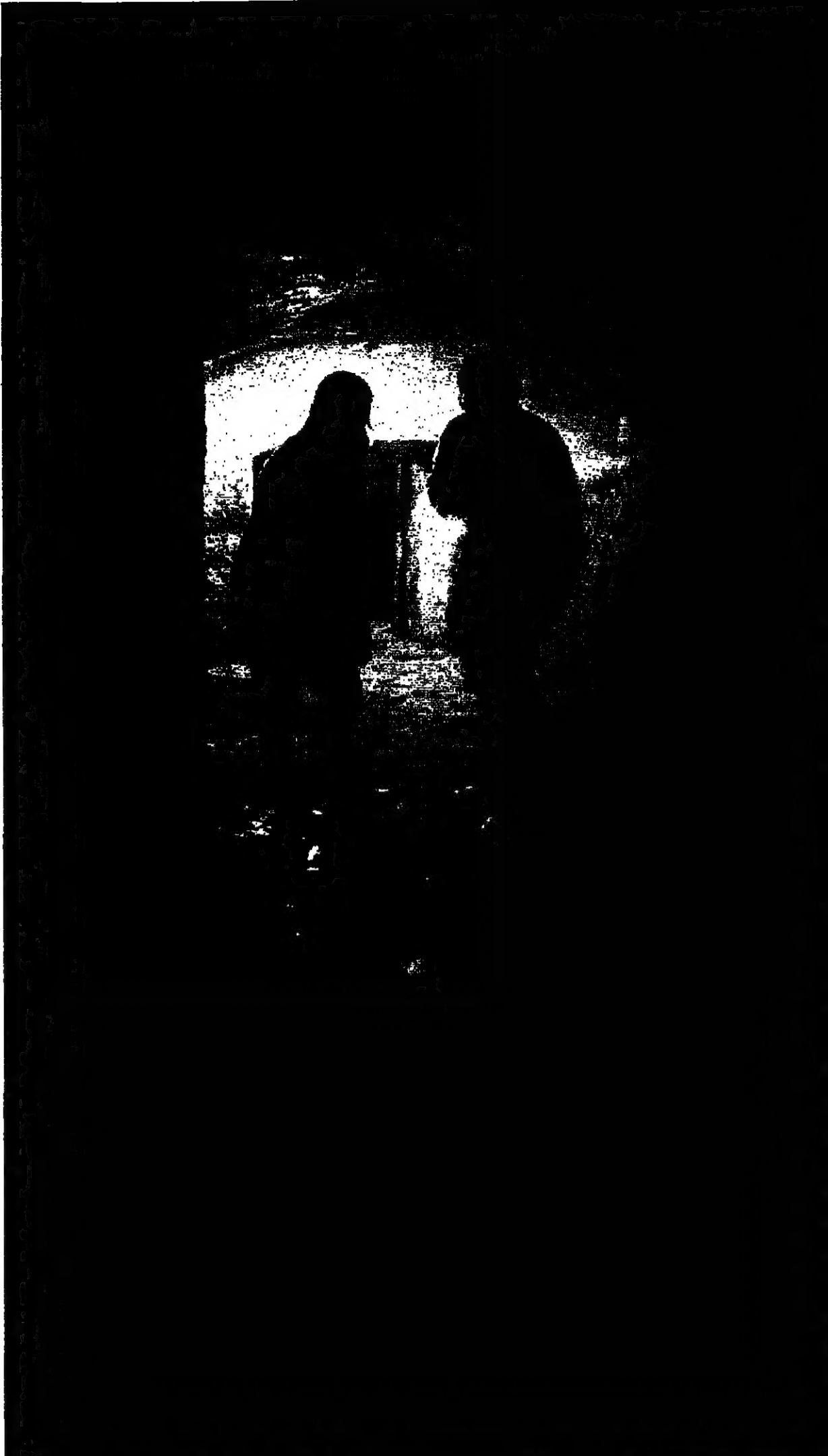
Monmouth's supporters paid a high price

Hanging Judge, to oversee the Bloody Assizes. More than 250 people were hung, drawn and quartered. A further 850 were deported to forced labour on the plantations of the West Indies. The brutality of the reprisals left a lingering resentment and led, indirectly, to the king's overthrow during the Glorious Revolution three years later.

Rumours persist that the tunnels under Southill were bolt holes for supporters of the Duke of Monmouth to flee through, but many Stoddes family papers have been lost and no record of the tunnels' original purpose remains. Southill's facade was rebuilt by the architect John Wood the Younger, responsible for some of the Georgian buildings in Bath, including the Royal Crescent. Little remains of the original property and there is no record of the site having been occupied before the 17th century.

Robin Bush, a Somerset historian and a member of Channel 4's *Time Team*, said: "There is something in the British psyche which makes us fascinated by underground features, whether they exist or not. In most cases, ancient tunnels are nothing more exciting than medieval drains but these ones certainly sound like they warrant further investigation."

The Southill tunnels have caught the attention of historians from Frome, five miles away, who have been investigating their own warren of underground passages. There is evidence of passages under the town linking several older buildings, but their purpose is obscure. One local historian, David MacGregor, said: "Several people believe that they were medieval culverts but, as far as I am concerned, they are far too extensive for such a simple explanation. The labour and expense that went into them would have been phenomenal."



Through the past darkly: the Cotterells inside one tunnel. Below, Andrew emerges near the croquet lawn

Servant boy feared ghost in tunnel

GHOSTLY legends also surround Southill House, and receive a mention in the unpublished "record book" of Edwin Cox, the former servant. It appears that he was sent into the tunnel because others were too afraid.

He wrote the memoir in his old age for his descendants, who now live in the United States and who gave a copy to a previous owner of the estate. Born in 1838, Cox recalled ten years he spent as a servant at the house. He began work at the age of seven, carrying vegetables in the kitchen gardens for stipend a week.

Although there were numerous ghostly stories associated with the house, he says that he was never afraid of the supernatural until the day an ancient vault was discovered in the grounds.

"I am not superstitious and was

generally on hand to enter in some unused room, cellar or unexplored vault when no one else would enter," he recalled. "Once, some labourers were excavating in the park about a quarter of a mile from the house when they came upon some brick work several feet below the surface which on opening proved to be a very large vault."

The old Baron [Southill's owner] was immediately sent for, but neither he nor anyone else could form any idea of what was down there. And no one could be found to satisfy their curiosity on the subject and good reason why."

"One of the old Barons had committed suicide and, his spirit becoming troublesome, had been banished by 12 clergymen and walked up in one of the vaults below the cellars. Anyway, no one could be

persuaded down but the offer of a half crown overcame my fear. Together with a lighted candle, I started on my voyage of discovery."

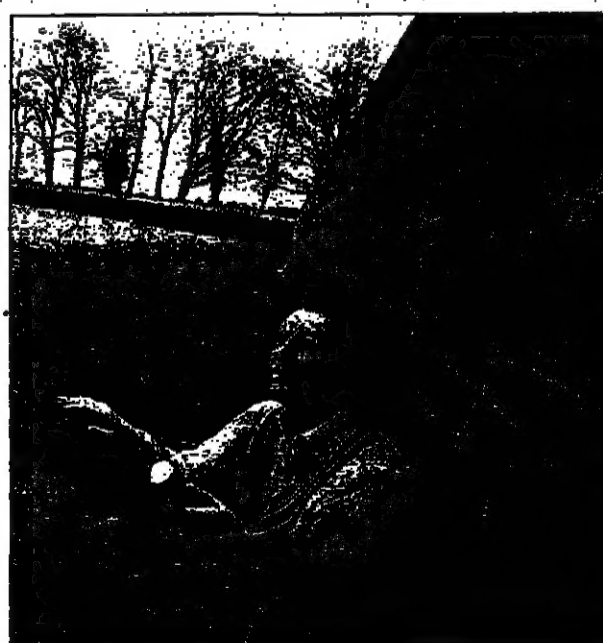
"The place was a passage large enough to drive a load of hay through, arched over the top and a clear stream of water ran through the centre. I started in the direction of the house, scrutinizing every object that lay in my road, not knowing but that I might fall into some hole or trap, but I found nothing of consequence excepting some old pieces of furniture and bottles, the like of which no one there had ever seen before."

"I kept along for what seemed to me an endless distance, until I was stopped by a massive stone wall and while trying to find an opening, I accidentally dropped my candle. Having no matches, I was left in total darkness. I was thoroughly fright-

ened and the thought of the terrible tale referred to above by no means mended matters. I groped my way back by the wall to the opening where they were all waiting with the greatest anxiety, fearing something had befallen me."

The boy was sent back with a hammer to hit the wall while his employer listened in the cellars. "As soon as he was satisfied that it led to the cellars, he had it closed up without exploring the other end, and so I was the only person living who had been down in the vault, and I don't think it has ever been opened since."

Cox records that two locals in their 70s told him that their fathers had talked about a secret tunnel leading from the house. He said: "It was supposed to have been used as a hiding place, also a means of escape in the time of the old feudal wars."



If you really want to go to hell, take the M25

By RICHARD DUCE

A SURVEY of traffic blackspots will raise few eyebrows among frustrated drivers whose route takes in the M25. London's orbital "relief" road is now officially the most congested in Britain.

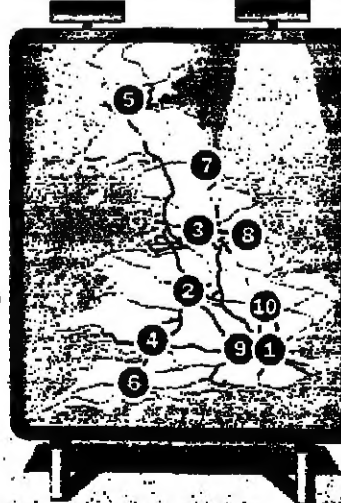
Three stretches of the M25, opened by Margaret Thatcher in 1986, head a list of "roads to hell" from a Road Haulage Association survey of its members, followed by the M5-M6 interchange northwest of Birmingham. Steven Norris, the former Conservative Transport Minister and now director-general of the associ-

ation, said yesterday that the list showed investment in the national road network was desperately needed.

Mr Norris said: "As an organisation we are all for the 'greening' of transport, with more freight on to rail and more car users turning to public transport. But the inescapable fact is that, if we are to move towards an environmentally sustainable and economically competitive transport system, we have got to put investment into the road network." He added that the Department of Transport had

WARNING: BRITAIN'S WORST TRAFFIC JAMS AHEAD

1. The M25 (between J11 and J12) in Surrey, at J25 in Hertfordshire and between J28 and J29 near Stevenage in Essex
2. The M5/M6 interchange, northwest of Birmingham
3. The M62 between Manchester and Leeds
4. The M4 around Newport, between J23 and J30
5. The M50 between Glasgow and Stirling
6. The A30 between Exeter and Hinton
7. The A1 western bypass, between Newcastle upon Tyne and Washington
8. The A43 from J38 on the M62 east of Hull Docks and Humber Bridge
9. The Humber Lane Gyroscopic System between the A40 and the A406 in West London
10. The A14 between Huntingdon and the M53



been the first to bear the brunt of cuts when money had to be found for other government spending plans.

Confederation of British Industry estimates put the annual cost of traffic jams, in lost

time, wasted fuel and increased pollution, at £15 billion a year, Mr Norris said. Increased traffic, particularly on the M62 and M50, was the result of an improving economy in the North and Scotland.

Uninvited party guests put detectives back in uniform

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO more officers have been transferred from the "zero tolerance" police unit at the centre of a corruption inquiry — for allegedly taking suspended officers under investigation to the Middlesbrough CID Christmas party.

The two detective constables have been returned to uniform duties with the Cleveland force. Detective Constables Lou Matthews and Ben Houchen have denied they invited the officers to the party in contravention of a order from their district commander, Chief Superintendent Graham Maxwell.

His latest action brings to seven the number of Middles-

brough CID officers either suspended or moved back to uniform since the force launched Operation Lancet to investigate allegations of drugs for confessions and other corrupt practices.

The first to go were Detective Constables Brendan Whitehead and Sean Allen, suspended after claims that they supplied heroin to a prisoner in exchange for confessions. Andy Shepherd, another DC, was also suspended.

Detective Superintendent Ray Mallon, the head of CID and pioneer of the "zero tolerance" policy, was then suspended, accused of leaking

information to the media and "alleged activity which could be construed as criminal". He strenuously denies the allegations. Earlier this month his right-hand man, Detective Sergeant John McPherson, was put back on the beat in the neighbouring division of Stockton.

When DCs Whitehead, Allen and Shepherd turned up at the Christmas party in the Potter's Bar disco in Middlesbrough last week, Mr Maxwell, who was also there, was reported to be furious. He had issued specific instructions that none of the suspended officers should attend. The party was attended by

more than 80 people, including Detective Superintendent Adrian Roberts, Mr Mallon's temporary replacement, and CID, uniform and civilian staff. One guest, who did not want to be named, said: "When the three officers turned up, they were well received. However, Maxwell and Roberts looked stony-faced. They weren't very happy."

The two officers were called to a face-to-face meeting with Mr Maxwell the next day and told they were back in uniform. Yesterday a police spokesman confirmed that Matthews and Houchen had been removed from the CID

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cancer deaths down over 10 years

Deaths from cancer fell over the past year to their lowest level for ten years, according to the Cancer Research Campaign. The fall is despite a corresponding rise in the number of people developing cancer. Better treatments, detection and screening have helped in a fall of more than 5,000 deaths since the early 1990s, including reductions in lung cancer and breast cancer. However, skin and prostate cancer deaths remained causes for concern. John Toy, of the campaign, said: "Although it is too early to predict a consistent trend, these figures are very encouraging."

Everyman Appeal, page 6

Fall from flyover

A woman firefighter was in a serious condition in hospital yesterday after falling 50ft from a flyover while trying to rescue two victims of a road crash. Sarah Cotton, 30, was giving first aid to the trapped female passenger of a Blood Transfusion Service lorry on the flyover near Shoreham, West Sussex.

Rail alert cash

More than 1,000 people forced from their homes for two days because of a chemical alert have been offered £50 compensation by freight train operators. An inquiry has begun into the derailment at Cadwinton, South Wales, on Saturday of a wagon containing 60 tonnes of inflammable material.

Mixed schools

Seven out of ten parents want a mixed school for their children, according to an NOP survey of 1,000 people for *Belle magazine*. However, 9 per cent of parents in Yorkshire and Scotland favoured single-sex schools, compared with almost 25 per cent of parents in East Anglia, the South and the South-East.

Burglars alarmed

Burglars dialled 999 after becoming trapped in a flat in Bradford they were trying to rob. Firemen rescued one trapped on a first-floor window ledge while colleagues battered down the front door. Three men pushed past just before the police arrived. They fled empty-handed as the flat was unoccupied.

Lifeboat rescues

More than half of all lifeboat rescues in 1997 were of people in pleasure craft or windsurfers. An average of three people were rescued each day, according to figures from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. A survey of sea users showed that one in five did not check the weather forecast before they set sail.

Grave mystery

Archaeologists are trying to find out why some of the graves found at a Saxon dig in Southampton point the wrong way. Four are Christian burials, aligned east to west. But another is the opposite way round and a sixth faces north. One theory is that they are earlier pagan burials.

Stylish serpent

A man found a 2 ft snake in his jumper. Mike Doran, 40, a hospital cleaner, from Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester, was rescued by his partner Diame Palin, 36, who trapped it in a bucket and called the police. They returned the harmless Florida king snake, called Sally, to the previous tenant.

me

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cancer deaths down over 10 years

Mail from Rome

Rail alert

Mixed school

Harlequin

Guests put in uniform

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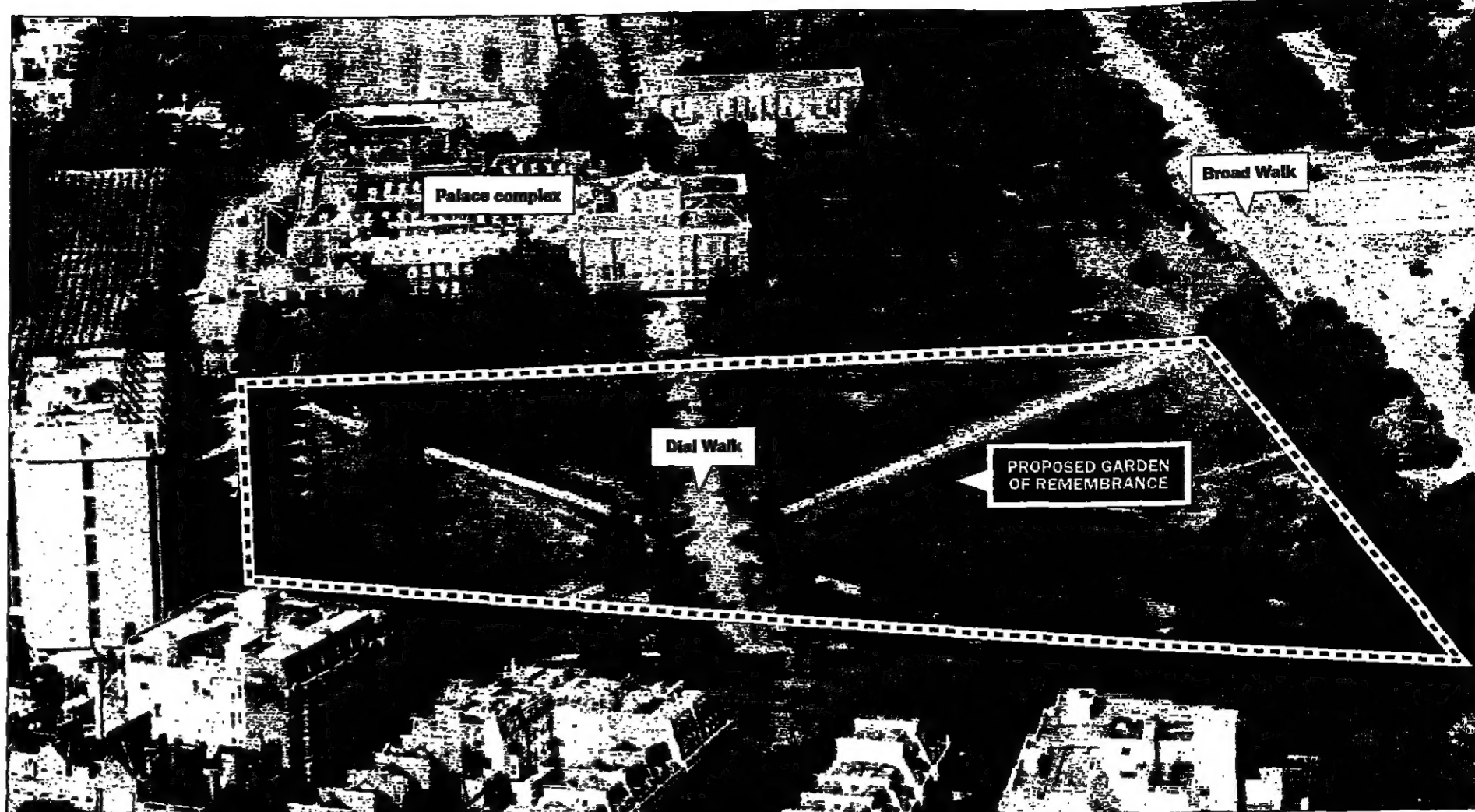
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Diana memorial could be £10m garden



The floral shrine to the Princess created by mourners

From over 7,000 proposals, a floral tribute emerges as the favourite way to remember, reports Michael Horsnell



A £10 MILLION garden of remembrance outside the Princess of Wales's Kensington Palace home, with highly scented plants for the blind, poetry readings, fountains and pools, emerged yesterday as the most likely monument to her.

A detailed proposal has been put by David Welch, chief executive of the Royal Parks Agency, to the committee set up by the Chancellor to devise a permanent memorial. The Princess of Wales Memorial Committee will meet early next month to consider over 7,000 suggestions but the proposed 16-

acre site within Kensington Gardens is widely considered the best option. The area was turned into a huge impromptu shrine in the days after her death four months ago today.

The landscape architects Colvin and Mogridge of Faringdon, Oxfordshire, have been asked by the Royal Parks Agency to prepare a "design concept" embodying Mr Welch's proposals, which would cater for five million visitors a year.

Where the money for the memorial, and estimated annual running costs of £75,000, will come from remains uncertain. But the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, which is an entirely separate charitable body, will be asked to provide support.

Mr Welch, whose agency manages the eight royal parks around London, said in his report to the committee that since the Princess's death the area south of Kensington Palace, which she often used, had been visited by tens of thousands of people. "We believe the gardens will remain a focal point for visitors wishing to remember the Princess in future years," he added. "The

whole proposal would produce a new national asset, hugely increase public advantage from an existing one, be thoroughly well used and valuable, and be generally esteemed by the public."

His proposals include longer opening hours with the help of subtle lighting to create a moonlit effect, perhaps by extending the gas lighting used in Hyde Park.

The spiked railings, some of which had to be taken out before the funeral to allow safe movement because of the huge numbers of onlookers, could be removed from

the whole length of West Carriage Drive on the boundary of the gardens.

The new flower garden in front of the palace would be planted with herbs, roses and flowering shrubs and dotted with fountains, ponds, and statues. The soil would be enriched by the compost made from the millions of flowers laid in the royal parks in honour of the Princess.

Mr Welch adds: "Its design and planting could convey a sense of joyfulness and if this was done, it would be vibrant with the liveliness

of many visitors and provide a fitting climax to the pilgrims' way that is already establishing itself along the route of the funeral procession."

Evening readings, perhaps commissioned through the Poetry Society, and art exhibitions would also add to the atmosphere. Other facilities would include a children's area and places where personal tributes might be left.

The garden site, straddling Dial Walk, where mourners laid flowers after the Princess's death, has become a trampled tract of grass.

The original, elaborate pattern gardens of William and Mary were modified by Queen Anne and eventually removed before being returned to grassland in the 18th century.

To keep down costs, shrubs, roses and perennials would be preferred to annual flowers, and mulches would be used to curb weeds. In keeping with the Princess's devotion to the disadvantaged, full access would be provided for people with disabilities and there would be many scented plants for the blind.

Police hope to jog revellers' memories a year after murder

By DANIEL MCGRORY

ALONG every step of the route which Nicola Dixon followed last New Year's Eve there will be posters of the attractive 17-year-old A-level student reminding revellers that her killer has not been caught. Her family fear that, a year on, he never will be.

Nicola had set out to walk the half a mile from a hospital social club to a party to meet friends when she was sexually assaulted and bludgeoned to death by the parish church in Sutton Coldfield.

Detectives admit that, despite a £25,000 reward, televised reconstructions, emotional appeals from Nicola's parents and a year-long inquiry that has taken nearly a thousand DNA samples, they are baffled as to who killed the student they call "the perfect daughter".

Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Roberts, who still leads the inquiry, said: "We don't want to scare women into thinking this man will choose New Year's Eve again, but some woman - his wife, mother or girlfriend - must know who he is."

The poster campaign in this prosperous Birmingham suburb is a last appeal to party-goers who, police believe, a year ago must have heard



Nicola Dixon: hit and sexually assaulted

Nicola's cries as she was dragged from an alleyway into the garden of a deserted rectory.

They are to investigate a number of men working abroad who they know were in Sutton Coldfield for last year's holidays. But the belief is that Nicola's killer was a local.

Her mother, Rita, said: "New year is no longer something to look forward to. Nicola was probably attacked at about 10 o'clock on New Year's Eve. While most people are celebrating, we will be enduring an awful vigil while we wait for 10 to strike."

Police will be asking revel-

lers for any information they have. Mr Roberts said: "I find it hard to believe that somebody doesn't know."

They are aware of the unease in the community, with women reluctant to walk alone after dark. Neighbours remain convinced that the killer knew that the town's rector had moved just three days before the murder from the house which runs alongside Trinity Hill, a dimly lit but popular short cut.

Walburga Burrell, whose flat is near the alleyway, said: "Women won't walk there at night now as the man must have picked the one place around here where he knew he could not be seen."

Some witnesses remember seeing a man, about 5ft 5in tall and in his early 20s, in a dark overcoat and Doc Marten boots, following a few yards behind Nicola as she slithered on snow-covered roads that night.

Police cannot be certain if she was stalked or whether her attacker was waiting behind the high wooden gates of the house on Trinity Hill. Nicola was hit about the head and face with what is thought to have been a brick and then sexually assaulted. Mr Roberts said: "We believe the whole attack was over in a matter of minutes."



A sapling being trained into the shape of a stool, tended by a Groundworks warden

Long wait for a seat as garden grows furniture

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A NEW line in self-assembly furniture is taking shape in South Wales. It takes rather longer than even the most difficult DIY kit - a chair can take six years - but that is because the furniture is assembling itself.

Saplings have been planted to grow into the right shape along plywood frames, with joints forming where the shoots fuse together. The furniture garden is the idea of Christopher Cattle, a lecturer in furniture design,

who says: "Anyone with a little skill and patience could produce more or less what they want in their own back garden."

Mr Cattle, 62, who teaches at Buckinghamshire University College, has planted three rows of chairs and tables as part of a PhD in furniture design with the Royal College of Art. The Groundworks Foundation, which encourages commun-

ity enterprises in deprived areas, provided the land at Aberdare, as well as volunteer helpers. The first chair should be ready for picking at the end of next year.

The technique was once used by the ancient Greeks and Egyptians, and Mr Cattle says he has been approached by a manufacturer: "This is viable and environmentally friendly. You sit back for four years for a stool and six years for a chair."

Missing dome hits launch of Website

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE launch of the millennium Website was delayed yesterday as organisers tried to put the Millennium Dome back on the map of Britain.

The Internet pages, part of a £750,000 public relations blitz paid for by players of the National Lottery, had been expected to go live at 9.30am. But, after *The Times* disclosed that the map of projects receiving lottery money had excluded the £750 million festival in Greenwich, organisers had a change of heart.

The Millennium Commission had hired the image consultants Lloyd Northover Clegg to tell the public that its lottery money was going to much more than just the year-long exhibition at the dome site. The centrepiece of the Website was to be a map of the United Kingdom with orange squares marking the big capital projects being helped by the commission. But there was no mention of the dome.

A spokeswoman for the commission explained that the dome, which will receive £449 million from the lottery, was regarded as being in a different category. "It isn't a capital project as such," she said. "If people think it is significant, we are going to amend the map."

Letters, page 19

Grumpy grocer bans all customers

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SHOPKEEPER has banned all customers from inside his store because he believes they are too rude and noisy.

Sohan Singh locked the door of his grocery and off-licence and installed a serving hatch. Now customers of the Glenhorpe Stores in Burmantofts, Leeds, have to choose what they want through the shop window before ringing a bell to be served through the hatch.

Mr Singh, 49, said: "It is a small shop and somebody standing outside can see everything we have to sell."

He said it was a final measure against unruly customers in an area of the west Yorkshire city known for its social problems. Mr Singh, who has run his shop for 13 years, has already banned smokers, prams, pets and people who swear. He said he was prepared to suffer a drop in takings rather than admit "abusive" people.

"I am here to provide a public service. I respect customers as long as they respect me and my family. If they abuse me, I do not serve them," he said. "I have done what I did because people were abusing the system by coming in smoking cigarettes or pushing prams. Now nobody is allowed in."

Sound practice could help whales to live in peace and quiet

Born Free Appeal

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Please make cheques payable to Born Free or charge Visa/MasterCard no:

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For details of membership, animal adoptions and projects, visit BFF's Website at: <http://www.bornfree.co.uk/bffhome>

By PHILIP DELVES
BROUGHTON

THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

IMAGINE having a motorcycle constantly revving up in the middle of your house; and perhaps a lawnmower and a power drill on the go. The effect is much the same as that being inflicted on the Orca whales who return year after year to Johnstone Strait, a narrow channel off British Columbia in Canada.

The Orca, known as killer whales, communicate acoustically. So when hundreds of motorised fishing boats, tourist boats and liners criss-cross their habitat, the noise can be devastating. Several whales have even been hit and injured by passing boats.

The area off British Columbia is one of the easiest places in the world to see Orca in their natural habitat. The whales are immensely sociable creatures. They live in

families which stay together constantly, throughout the year almost never splitting up. Human interest in them is understandable but is making their lives a misery.

OrcaLab, based in British Columbia, is devoted to the study of the whales. Paul Spong and Helena Symonds run the centre, which tracks the whales off the coast and studies their language. In the past year, they have also provided the tourist boats with precise information on the whales' whereabouts with a daily 7am e-mail. This helps to lessen the frantic search which takes place every day whales are in the area.

As a next step, OrcaLab, with the help of the Born Free Foundation, one of the charities nominated this year by *The Times* for its Christmas

Appeal, is trying to bring together all the water-users in the area where the whales live and formulate a set of best-practice rules to control traffic.

Kim Wood, who looks after Orca for the foundation, says: "We want to be peacekeepers on the water and bring together the logging and fishing interests as well as the sports fishermen and tourist people and agree on how to protect the whales who do, after all, provide many livelihoods in the area."

Negotiating the release of Orca held in captivity fits in with the foundation's principal aim of creating the most natural habitat possible for animals held in captivity or having them responsibly released back into the wild. Whales which should be liv-

ing for well over 50 years in the wild have an average lifespan of five years when in captivity.

OrcaLab needs funds to maintain its projects tracking and studying the whales off British Columbia. The plan is to establish rules for those using the waters inhabited by the whales will require seed money of just a few thousand pounds to implement.

Corky, an Orca who has been a star attraction at Sea World in Florida for nearly 28 years, comes from a family under observation by Dr Spong and OrcaLab. "Her mother is still alive in the wild," says Kim Wood. "Corky has even retained her whale dialect. The first whale to get back into the wild would have a big price on its head in terms of tourist interest, but if done properly it would be by far the best thing for the whale."

Everyman Appeal

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Please make cheques payable to Everyman appeal or charge Visa/MasterCard/Delta Card no:

Expiry date: Today's date:

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Everyman appeal
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7th Onslow Gardens
London SW7 3AL

PLEASE DO NOT SEND DONATIONS TO THE TIMES

If more than the £40,000 required for the gene sequencer is raised through the Christmas appeal, it will go directly to other vital prostate cancer research at the Institute of Cancer Research.

Codebreaker names Bard's 'Fair Youth'

Shakespearean mystery may be solved, reports Nigel Hawkes

A RETIRED physicist believes he has solved a puzzle that has baffled Shakespearean scholars for generations.

The identity of Mr W.H., the "onlie begetter" of Shakespeare's sonnets, is hidden in the enigmatic dedication in the first printed edition of the poems, says Dr John Rollett. The dedication, awkwardly phrased and obscure in meaning, is a cipher containing the name Henry Wriothesley.

Wriothesley, 3rd Earl of Southampton, was known to have been a patron of Shakespeare, who dedicated two narrative poems to him. The fact that his name can be found concealed in the letters of the dedication leaves "not much room for doubt" in Dr Rollett's mind that Wriothesley was also the inspiration for the sonnets.

They were published in 1609 by Thomas Thorpe, described by the *Dictionary of National Biography* as "disreputable and half-educated". He obtained them from an unknown source — not Shakespeare — and is assumed to have written the dedication, since it ends with the initials T.T. The sonnets were written much earlier, in about 1594, when the poet was 30 and Wriothesley was 21.

Many scholars have been struck by the awkwardness of Thorpe's dedication, since he is known to have been capable of more elegant prose. It occupies the second leaf of the



John Rollett, who says the odds against the name Henry Wriothesley appearing by chance are one in 320 million

quarto edition, beginning "To the onlie begetter of these ensuing sonnets Mr W.H. all happiness be...".

In 1964 Leslie Hotson, a Shakespeare scholar, claimed to have identified the name William Hatcliffe hidden in the dedication, but this idea is not now accepted. Inspired by Hotson's efforts, Dr Rollett wondered if the dedication really did contain the secret.

It contains many peculiarities, he says, from the way it is arranged to the curious spelling of "onlie", and the close conjunction of "wisheth" and "well-wishing", where near-repetition could easily have been avoided by using a phrase such as "well-disposed".

This made him wonder if it was a cipher. When he counted the letters, he found there were 144, a suspiciously round number which has many factors. This suggested the idea of laying out the letters as blocks — 12 lines of 12 letters each to form a square, for example, or eight letters by 18.

Arranged in a rectangle of nine rows, each of 16 letters, the name Henry appears, running diagonally downwards. And when the letters are arranged as a block of eight by 18, the name Wriothesley can be teased out — although it is broken up into three separate sections, "Wri", "th", and "esley".

Such a cipher is based on a technique first used by Spartan generals, who wound a strip of paper around a staff, then wrote the message end to end. The message cannot be read until the paper is wound around an identical staff by the recipient.

Codes were widely used in Elizabethan times, and John Dee, a scholar and astrologer of the day, describes a cipher based on writing out a text in the form of a block, as Dr Rollett has done. Thorpe could well have been aware of this type of cipher.

Dr Rollett's decoding will appear in the next issue of *Elizabethan Review*, a literary and historical journal published in the US. Whether it will be accepted by scholars depends on how plausible it is that the names Henry and sections of Wriothesley would

appear by chance at 1,192 to one, and the section "esley" of Wriothesley at 1,056 to one. Taking into account the same block also includes "ioth" and "Wri" raises the odds to about one in 270,000, says Dr Rollett. Multiplying the odds against finding Henry with those against finding the three fragments of Wriothesley gives overall odds of one in 320 million.

So far, Dr Rollett has been disappointed by the reaction of Shakespearean scholars. "One replied that the identity of the young man was no longer central to work on the sonnets," he says. "Another said it didn't matter who he was. But his identity has puzzled a large number of people for 150 years or so."

There is one final problem: Henry Wriothesley was HW, not WH. Dr Rollett is undeterred — he says that Thorpe simply transposed the initials as an extra puzzle, as Elizabethans often did.



A famous miniature by Nicholas Hilliard is thought by some to represent the "Fair Youth" of the sonnets, because the braunles are said to form the letters "WH"

Britain plans to turn off TV porn channel

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

A BANNING order is to be sought by Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, against a French-based pornographic television channel beamed into Britain by satellite.

In October the Independent Television Commission (ITC) decided that Eurotica Rendez-Vous was an "unsuitable" channel under broadcasting rules and recommended that Mr Smith seek the order, which bans the marketing and sale of the service in Britain.

The ITC said that the output of the channel — a reconstructed version of an earlier banned channel called Rendez-Vous — consisted "almost exclusively of unacceptable pornography". The channel is being marketed in Britain through advertisements in satellite magazines and dealers offering decoders and smart cards.

The commission licenses a number of "soft porn" satellite channels, such as Playboy, which are available only by

subscription. Such channels feature nudity and simulated sex. The ITC said yesterday that Eurotica Rendez-Vous showed explicit sexual acts which it judges pornographic.

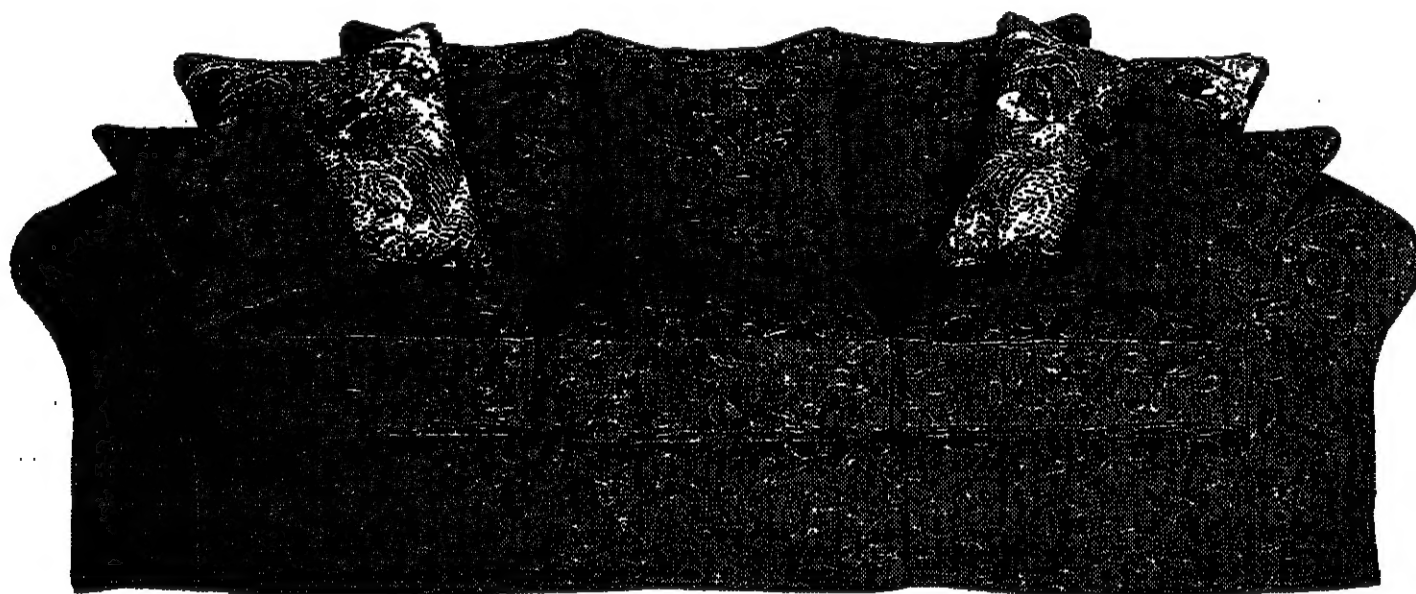
The secretary of state has viewed the tape [of Eurotica] and agrees with the ITC's judgment," the Department of Culture said yesterday.

Mr Smith plans on Monday to notify Eurotica, the French Government and the European Commission of his intention to proscribe the channel.

The Government is using a clause of the EU Broadcasting Directive which allows member states to act against types of programmes "which might seriously impair the physical, mental or moral development of minors".

Britain's first homosexual television channel, Gay TV, is to be launched on January 6. The satellite subscription channel, which promises "the very raunchiest in gay entertainment", will be broadcast each day from 4am to 5.30am.

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So if you believe in the expression 'out with the old, in with the new,' visit your local House of Fraser store on New Year's Day (or January 2nd for Scottish stores). And once you've done that, relax.



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Teacher quits in protest at £1,500 Christmas party

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

THE deputy head of a primary school has resigned in protest at the amount of money spent on the staff Christmas party. Steve Williamson quit Reay Primary School in Brixton, south London, after about 30 staff enjoyed a £1,500 night out, including dinner and a trip to the West End show *Chicago*.

School governors said no more than £500 of the grant-maintained school's budget should have been spent and have launched an inquiry. They will meet next term to decide whether Peter Charam, the head teacher, should repay the remaining £1,000.

Tony Andrews, the chairman of governors, said yesterday that Mr Williamson would serve his notice during the spring term. "He has resigned and we accepted his resignation. His letter prompted us to look into this further," said Mr Andrews.

He added: "We think an element of team-building and morale-boosting for the staff is appropriate, but we thought the amount of money was too high. The governors are investigating the matter. It is a matter of whether it was spent appropriately, given that it is a state school and it is public money. The staff

are excellent and deserve to be rewarded. The basic idea was a thank-you to an excellent group of staff. If we were to add up all the extra hours they have worked it would come to much more than the money spent on the Christmas outing. But we have to put a limit upon how much can come out of school funds."

The 210-pupil school has an annual budget of £707,761. Mr Charam justified the bill by saying it was normal for all schools to go out for a Christmas meal, but refused to comment further.

One teacher, who did not wish to be named, said: "This is obviously a mess. We are only a small school without much money and the cash would have been better spent on books or something else."

"There is no suggestion of financial impropriety and the money was spent as a goodwill gesture. But at a time when the school is struggling for cash it is obviously going to look bad that all this money is being spent on the teachers."

A spokesman for the Funding Agency for Schools, which allocates money to grant-maintained schools, said governors decided how to spend their budget.





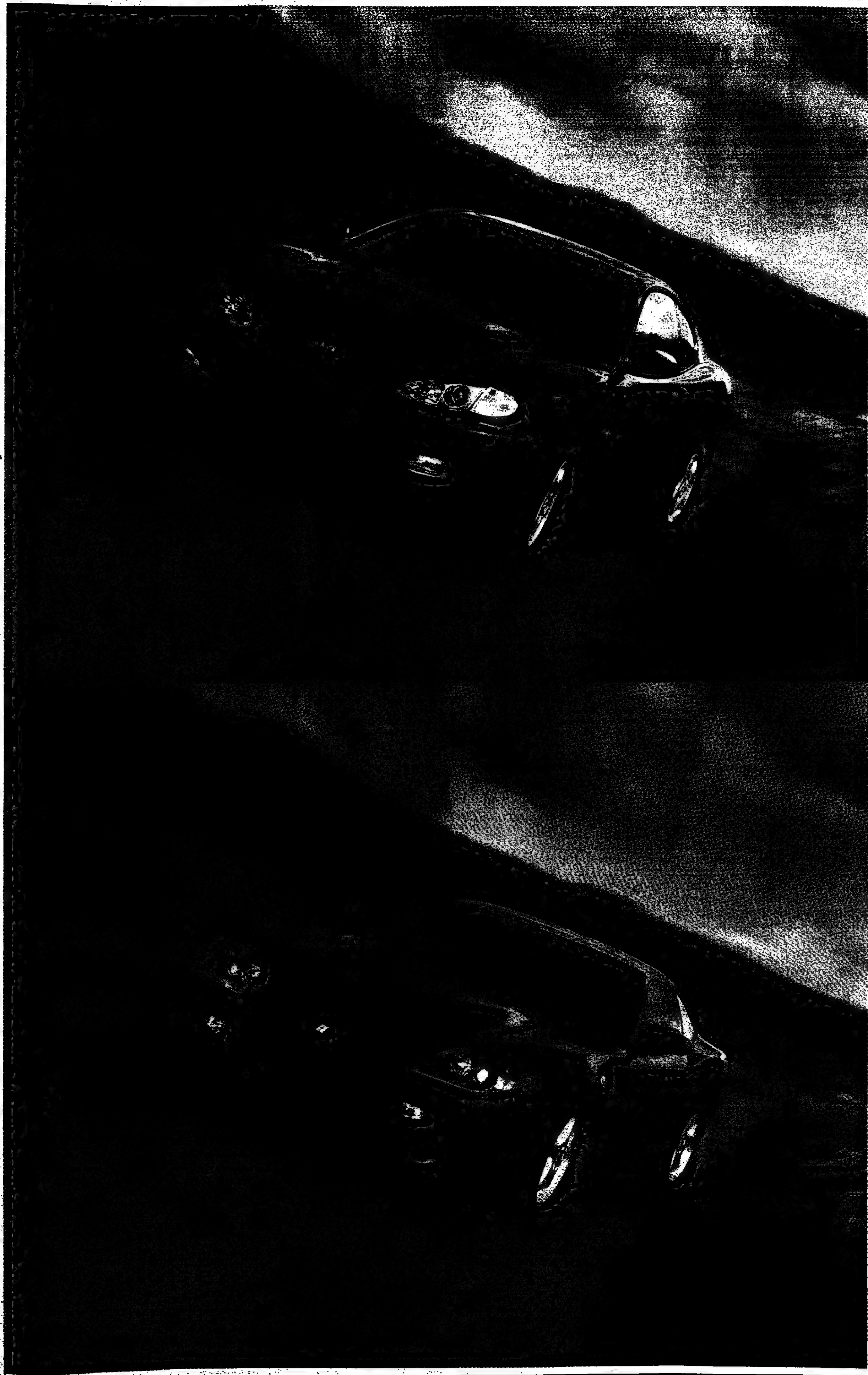
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A very different view was given by the Daily Telegraph. The Coupé was "one of the best buys for the money."

مكتبة الدف



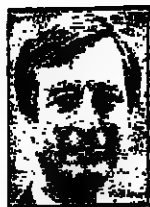
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Nile town counts cost of massacre



Michael Binyon reports from Luxor how visitors are being promised bargain prices. Photographs by Chris Harris

THE vast floating hotels are moored silently along the Nile bank. The linen sails of the picturesque *feluccas* flap in the breeze but no one is taking photographs and no one ventures out for a sail.

Abed el-Naser sat, dejected, in the warm December sun outside his floating papyrus museum, no longer bothering to entice in the occasional European. "There is no one coming. They are all frightened. Most of us will be ruined," he said.

A mile away, flanking the massive portals of the temple of Luxor, the inscrutable pharaonic statues stand as they have for 4,000 years. But there are no Germans clustered around their pedestals, no groups of British package holi-

Everyone of us is insulted by these men who came from outside to kill 9

daymakers listening to the history of ancient Thebes. No Swiss or Japanese with their cameras, sun-hats and curiosity to explore Egypt's most lucrative tourist attraction. The massacre of 58 tourists, including six Britons, at the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut on November 17 has devastated the £2 billion Egyptian tourism industry. Nowhere has the damage been as great, or the psychological shock so profound, as at Luxor.

The small, close-knit city, far up the Nile in Upper Egypt, was considered immune from the politics of Islamic fanaticism. "No one expected anything here," the guides said. "We all know each other. Everyone here is very angry. We are still tribal in Upper Egypt, and we follow the tribal rules of hospitality. The tourists are our guests. Everyone of us is insulted by these men who came from outside to do this."

Complicity was the culprit. It took the police almost 90 minutes to arrive on the scene after the six gunmen had begun firing. It was the locals who tried to help, pursuing the bus hijacked by the killers with sticks, staves and stones. The bus driver, who defied orders to drive to another tourist site until he was wounded by the enraged gunmen, is a local hero. "We have learnt the lesson," insisted Salmi Salim, the city's

new Mayor, a no-nonsense army man drafted in to improve security and help Luxor to get back on its feet.

The city has been ringed with troops far out in the desert, on watch for infiltrators. At the main tourist sites, police armed with machine-guns sit at the entrances. But, however much the local people argue that Luxor is safer than Florida or New York, tourist companies have taken fright. The British were by far the largest group of visitors, and they have disappeared.

Why is Thomson not sending people? the hoteliers asked, invoking each time the company that is the lifeblood for the city. They also hint that the British Government is forbidding Britons to go to Egypt.

certainly the Foreign Office advice, with its warning of Islamic fanaticism, has made insurance cover more difficult. Cairo has come to the town's aid. It has postponed all tax collection for six months

and begun a big programme to fill the empty beds with Egyptians — students, teachers, civil servants and all those who would benefit from knowing their country's history.

The occasional Western visitor is delighted by the chance to wander in solitude among the pillars of Karnak or marvel at the hieroglyphics and depictions of rites millennia ago. "Of course I'm not worried," a New Zealander remarked as she hurried across to the empty temple. "I wouldn't be here if I was."

Those seeking a bargain should go now. Rarely has Luxor been more accessible or more welcoming. Two decades of tourism have incalculable in the local people a love for the ancient pharaohs.

In the near-empty cafés, there is anger at corruption, nepotism and the perception that Cairo has always looked down on Upper Egypt. But no one shows anything but contempt for the Islamists. "You are safe with us," the guides and guards tell tourists.

And if smiles were shields, Luxor would be invincible. "Welcome," the police say every hundred yards. "You are welcome in Egypt." More than ever now.



Boats and floating hotels lie idle on the Nile at Luxor as tourists stay away from the site of Egypt's pharaonic temples after the massacre

World numbers growth 'slowing'

Washington: Population growth is declining globally but remains high in those countries "least able to support their growing millions", according to a study released yesterday.

The Population Institute said: "Rapid population growth in the poorest countries remains the most pressing global demographic problem." Its 1997 World Population Overview compared the slower rise in population to a tidal wave. "Whether... 80ft or 100ft high, the impact will be similar."

Over the next few years, the annual number of births worldwide would be at least 132 million. The institute added that nearly 98 per cent of the annual population increase occurs in less developed regions. The overall decline in growth was attributed to widespread acceptance of family planning, delayed marriages and increasing death rates. (AFP)



A woman from the University of Luxor cleaning hieroglyphics and depictions at Karnak temple

Millennial cheer for champagne sales

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

SALES of champagne have broken all records this year as anxious buyers stockpile bottles for the millennium — and Britain is one of the biggest overseas customers.

More than 270 million bottles were sold in 1997 with exports reaching 100 million bottles for the first time, the French business daily *Les Echos* reported. "At the moment we are witnessing precautionary buying and this situation will become even more apparent next year," Yves Bénard, president of the Union of Champagne Houses, said.

Stocks have never been higher, standing at about one billion bottles, most of it tucked away in cellars cut into the chalky stone below the towns of Reims and Epernay.

This figure will be augmented by the annual crop of 250 million bottles.

As world demand is only 246 million bottles, even those who leave their champagne purchases until closing time on Hogmanay 1999 need not fear any shortage of non-vintage and even vintage champagnes to choose from.

In Britain sales have risen by two million bottles to 8.3 million bottles in the past two years.

Despite such assurances, the millennium is still expected to increase sales of festive bubbly by 60 million bottles between now and 2000. The signs of strongest growth have been outside the European Union, where sales were up by 14 per cent compared with 1996.

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Kenya unrest feared after chaos at polls

KENYA faced the prospect yesterday of renewed unrest, with the Government and the opposition crying foul after chaotic general elections.

President Moi said in a radio broadcast that the election was rigged by his opponents. The claim was made as ballots were still being counted after electoral mayhem forced a second day of voting yesterday.

The 73-year-old President and his Kanu party have been widely tipped to win the elections. But state-owned KBC radio broadcast a bulletin in which President Moi accused the Electoral Commission of being involved in "an obvious scheme to rig the general elections in favour of the opposition".

The radio added: "President Moi said it was absurd that, since the start of voting [on Monday], the Electoral Commission had targeted Kanu's traditional strongholds." It quoted Mr Moi as saying that in some Kanu areas the commission had made sure there was a shortage of ballot papers.

Opposition parties are also dismissing the elections as fraudulent. They are blaming Kanu for purposely orchestrating the confusion in which ballot papers were delivered late, to the wrong places and,

Government and opposition are crying electoral foul, David Orr reports in Nairobi

In some cases, not at all. Safina, the party of Richard Leakey, the conservationist, has called for mass action in the new year if President Moi and Kanu win the elections. The Social Democratic Party of Charity Ngilu, a presidential challenger, has said that the elections should be annulled because of rigging by Kanu. There are fears that if opposition supporters take to the streets there could be a repeat of the violence when security forces crushed demonstrations in Nairobi in the summer.

"The elections are emerging as a fantastic farce", said members of the National Convention Executive Council (NCEC), a pro-democracy reform lobby with strong opposition links. "Pretended inefficiency and staggering fraud have irreparably marred the 1997 attempt to

hold an election. [They are] an insult to the Kenyan people." The NCEC urged Kenyans yesterday to "reject the flawed elections" and called on Mr Moi to form a government of national unity. The organisation, which led last summer's suppressed pro-democracy demonstrations, has appealed for calm "at this hour of national tragedy".

Professor Kivutha Kibwana, the NCEC chairman, said yesterday: "The manner in which the elections have been conducted so far precludes anyone other than Moi from winning." A few minutes after the NCEC press conference, senior Kanu officials were also alleging skulduggery. Echoing the words of his leader, Jeremiah Nyagah accused "Electoral Commission of trying to 'frustrate an otherwise assured [Kanu] victory. Ballot papers were either missing or less than required in areas that support Kanu. It is obvious these events were not accidental."

His statements to journalists gave rise to suspicions that President Moi and Kanu may be preparing the ground for defeat if the results, expected by the end of the week, go against them.

Leading article, page 19



A soldier guards hundreds of full ballot boxes in Nairobi City Hall yesterday before counting got under way

Chicken flu hunt extended to China

By JAMES PRINGLE

THE World Health Organisation confirmed yesterday that health experts would visit China next month to search for a possible source of the deadly avian flu virus.

The announcement came as unofficial reports from China's Guangdong province bordering Hong Kong said that one person had died from the illness there.

Tang Guoqiang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the Agriculture Ministry had sent its own experts to Guangdong to investigate the epidemic, but that "as of now, we have not received any reports of cases of avian flu".

There appears to be no killing of chickens in China, which Hong Kong officials say has been the epicentre of influenza outbreaks: 80 per cent of Hong Kong's chickens come from the mainland.

An Agriculture Ministry official said that the ministry would soon issue a notice urging the whole country, and coastal provinces in particular, to be alert to the avian flu, which most chicken-vendors in Beijing know little or nothing about.

In Beijing, Alan Schnur, a local WHO official, said the experts would visit Guangdong during the week starting January 12. He added that Chinese authorities were treating the scare "very seriously" and were engaged in surveillance work.

In Hong Kong, the slaughter of 1.3 million chickens continued in an effort to combat the epidemic which has killed four out of the 13 people who are thought to have contracted the sickness.

Areas where the birds had been exterminated in Hong Kong's urban areas were being hosed down and disinfected. Empty chicken markets were unusually deserted and silent. The grisly business of killing has now moved into markets and smallholdings in the rural New Territories.

Taiwan said last night it was striving to replace China as the main supplier of chickens to Hong Kong.

Nyerere offers jail exit for Kaunda

By RAY KENNEDY

KENNETH KAUNDA, the former Zambian President who has been in jail since Christmas Day, was yesterday offered freedom in return for a pledge to retire from active politics.

Julius Nyerere, the former Tanzanian President, flew with the offer to the maximum security prison at Kambe after talks in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, with President Chiluba. Mr Nyerere flew to Lusaka on Monday to try to mediate on behalf of countries in the 11-member Southern African Development Community (SADC), to which Zambia belongs, who have expressed their concern.

"I was allowed to see Kenneth Kaunda and now I am off home. I have nothing more to say to the press," Mr Nyerere told reporters.

But although some diplomats in Lusaka felt that Mr Nyerere could clinch a deal, others said they believe that Dr Kaunda, 73, will not give way. One of his sons, Major Wezi Kaunda, said yesterday that his father, who has been on hunger strike since his arrest, has now been persuaded to drink some water and fruit juice.

He has been served with a 28-day detention order in connection with a failed coup attempt in October carried out by a group of junior army officers. An application in the Lusaka High Court for him to be released on bail is due to be resumed on Friday.



Nyerere: mediating on behalf of African states

Beijing tries to halt Singapore visit

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

CHINA yesterday expressed serious concern over a planned unofficial visit to Singapore by Lien Chan, the Taiwanese Vice-President, which it sees as a rebuff from an old ally.

The visit takes some of the gloss off Beijing's formal establishment of diplomatic relations with South Africa yesterday. President Mandela's Government signed a formal agreement with China, switching relations from Taiwan to the mainland. South Africa said it accepted that there was only one China, the People's Republic of China.

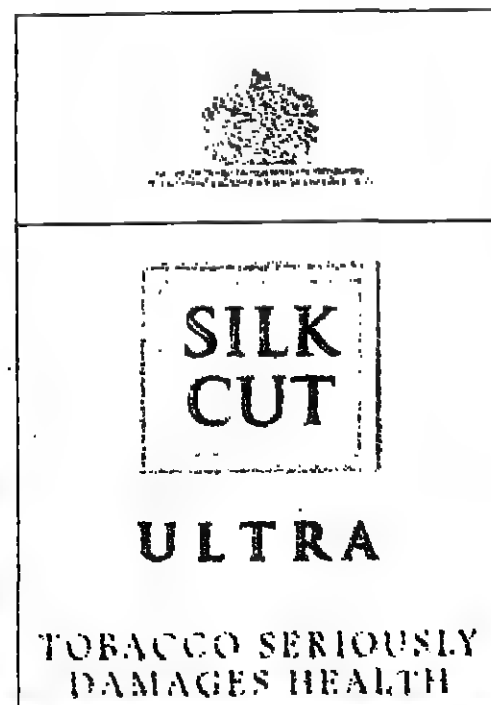
Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, who signed the agreement with his counterpart, Alfred Nzo, in Pretoria, told Taiwan to give up

its rivalry with Beijing. "It is like Don Quixote's fight against the windmills."

Yet Taiwan has managed to save some face by announcing Mr Lien's "family holiday" in Singapore, during which it is said he will meet Singaporean leaders. Twenty-nine countries retain diplomatic links with Taiwan.

"We are seriously concerned about this news and have made representations to the Singapore side," Tang Guoqiang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said. "We hope the Singapore Government will proceeding from the overall friendly interests of the two nations, solve this problem and avoid unnecessary interference or damage to bilateral relations."

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Mutinous Brazilian prisoners kill inmate

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

PRISON inmates holding 600 hostages in a Brazilian maximum-security jail and demanding a getaway vehicle were last night reported to have killed a fellow convict.

Nilton dos Reis, convicted of rape, was murdered in his cell and his body thrown out of one of the prison's windows, police reported.

Troops surrounded the Sorocaba jail, in São Paulo state, where a group of armed inmates have been holding the hostages, including at least 300 women and 230 children, since Sunday.

Most hostages, who yesterday braved a third night in captivity in temperatures up to 43C (109F), are relatives and friends of some of the 869 prisoners in the jail, an institution equipped for only 500

inmates. They also include 17 prison guards, who according to released hostages, have been locked in a windowless cell with grenades tied to their feet. The standoff began when a riot broke out on Sunday evening, during a busy visiting hour. Police said the wife of an inmate had smuggled a suitcase full of machineguns, revolvers, knives and grenades into the jail for a group of 11 prisoners who planned to disguise themselves as women and escape.

Prison guards foiled this attempt and a 15-minute gun battle ensued, in which one woman and an inmate were killed. The prisoners then overpowered the poorly armed guards and took over the jail. Initially they released some hostages, one pregnant



Inmates on the roof of the Sorocaba jail threaten to hang a fellow prisoner yesterday as heavily armed Brazilian troops mass outside

woman, 11 babies and elderly or ailing relatives. Yesterday the ringleaders announced on loudspeakers from the prison rooftop that they would not free any more hostages until an armoured getaway vehicle was provided. Police said the group of prisoners leading the hostage-taking are members

of São Paulo's notorious drugs gangs. The authorities have pledged that they would make every effort to reach a negotiated settlement. They want to avoid a repeat of a similar incident, which ended in a bloodbath when soldiers stormed the Carandiru prison, also in São Paulo state, in

1992. One hundred and eleven prisoners were killed, and human rights organisations said that most had been shot in the head by São Paulo's notorious military police.

"We will not storm the Sorocaba jail until the last instance and want to avoid a greater tragedy, but we will

also not allow the rioting inmates to use this as a chance to get away," said Albino Costa, spokesman for the state justice department, who is negotiating with the hostage-takers. "We are appealing to them to release the women and children, and especially the 38 babies believed to be

among the hostages." More than 300 gallons of milk, 2,000 loaves of bread and several bags of nappies were allowed into the prison last night.

Although civilian authorities are likely to try to delay a possible storming, police and military chiefs are said to be in favour of such an operation.

Ex-nurse charged after 100 hospital deaths

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A FORMER hospital nurse has been charged with murdering six elderly patients after a 33-month investigation into more than 100 puzzling deaths in the intensive-care unit while he was on duty.

Orville Lynn Majors was manning the ward while 130 patients died between May 1993 and March 1995. Only 17 other deaths happened during that period at times when Mr Majors was not on duty.

The deaths happened at the Vermillion County Hospital, north of Terre Haute, in Indiana. Mr Majors joined the staff in early 1993 and was suspended in March 1995 for "engaging in activities beyond his authority". They included administering drugs without a doctor's authorisation.

Mr Majors, who is being held without bail in Vermillion County jail, denies any wrongdoing. I. Marshall Pinkus, his lawyer, described Mr Majors' arrest as a "travesty". He said yesterday: "I am shocked and stunned."

Yet authorities at the 56-bed hospital were once shocked and stunned, too, as the death rates for the period in which Mr Majors worked with patients appeared to defy statistical analysis as well as medical explanations. In the early 1990s deaths in the intensive-care unit ranged from 24 to 31 a year. In 1994 the toll rose to 101, although admissions to the hospital had not risen above previous levels. In fact, as the hospital's notoriety spread, fewer people were bringing their sick relations there for treatment.

A recent study of 22 months during which Mr Majors was at the hospital disclosed that a death happened every 23.1 hours when he was working. During that same period, a death took place once every 551.6 hours when Mr Majors was not working. The hospital consultant who prepared the study said that deaths in the intensive-care ward reached "epidemic proportions" from July to December 1994.

According to affidavits submitted to investigators, Mr Majors' colleagues said he often described the relations of hospital patients as "dirty", "white trash" and "a bunch of whiners". Two friends of the accused have also told investigators that he had always hated the elderly: one recalled him as saying that "they should all be gassed".

In March, 1996 the police seized potassium chloride from Mr Majors' van. They also found syringes and needles at his home.

Saga of 'extinct' Indian owls clips birdman's reputation

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A SMALL owl, long thought extinct, has been found in India by two American experts. With help from the FBI, scientists from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington have also uncovered an ornithological fraud by a British soldier, adventurer and spy.

The species, known as the forest owl (*Athene blewiti*), was last sighted in the wild in 1894. The late Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen, a prominent British ornithologist, claimed to have collected one in Gujarat in October 1914 but detective work by a British museum specimen. Six were obtained in India more than 100 years ago and only one — Meinertzhagen's — was claimed to have been found this century.

Most of the other specimens had been collected and stuffed in the 1880s by James Davidson, a British researcher. He had a distinctive method of blinding the wings and stuffing the cavities around the wing bones with yellowed cotton.

Suspensions were aroused when seemingly identical cotton was found in the Meinertzhagen specimen. The samples matched, which



Found alive: forest owl

year's Anglo-American detective work by Dr Rasmussen and Nigel Collar of BirdLife International in Cambridge. They had tracked down seven museum specimens. Six were obtained in India more than 100 years ago and only one — Meinertzhagen's — was claimed to have been found this century.

Meinertzhagen had a strange and varied career. He once beat his groom to death with a mallet, faced a court of inquiry over the death of an African witch doctor and used trickery to help General Allenby wrest Palestine from the Turks.

He claimed to have met Hitler three times before the war, once with a revolver in his pocket. He said he always regretted not shooting the Führer when he had the chance. He was strongly pro-Zionist and a square was named after him in Jerusalem earlier this year.

could only mean that Meinertzhagen had stolen a Davidson specimen from the British Museum, cleaned it up and relabelled it, but omitted to change the cotton stuffing before claiming the discovery to be his own. This fraud threw everyone off the scent," said Dr Rasmussen yesterday.

Three years ago, the British Ornithological Union alleged that Meinertzhagen, who died in 1967, aged 89, was a cheat, a charge that threw into question the scientific worth of his collection of 20,000 stuffed birds in the Natural History Zoological Museum in Tring, Hertfordshire.

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Meinertzhagen: stole rare owl specimen

Clintons' fund dries up

Washington: The legal defence fund that President and Hillary Clinton had hoped would help them with their soaring lawyers' bills was dissolved yesterday because contributions were steadily declining (Ian Brodie writes).

The trustees' decision leaves the Clintons with unpaid legal

bills of \$3 million (£1.8 million) over the Whitewater affair and the sexual harassment suit brought by Paula Jones. In the first 11 months of this year, the fund took in only \$80,000, compared with \$261,000 in 1996. The fund had raised \$1.3 million and paid legal bills of \$766,000.

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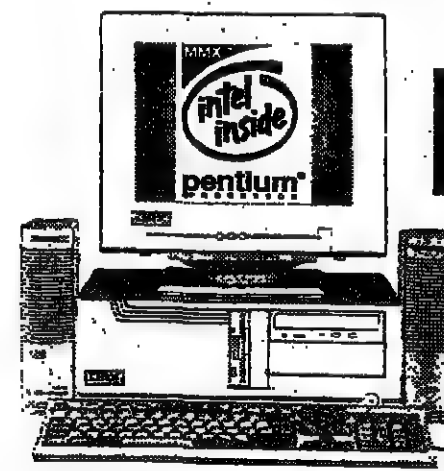
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هكسان الذملي

Ex-nurse charged after 100 hospital deaths

Ailing economy tames Japan's year of the tiger

JAPAN begins its new year holiday today in a mood of anxiety over the national destiny and fears that economic fortunes will get worse before they get better.

Millions will flock to shrines and temples in a ritual of praying for health and prosperity. But few expect the new year — the year of the tiger — to bring quick relief from the economic gloom weighing on the national psyche.

A nation has to relearn the art of thrift, Robert Whyman writes in Tokyo

In a country, where exchange rates and economic prospects dominate television news, the dramatic collapse of Yamaichi Securities and several other financial institutions has dented national self-confidence. "Can Japan survive?" was the overwrought message on more than one Christmas card.

To make matters worse, many Japanese were denied the pleasure of drowning their worries at "forget-the-old-year" parties. Company executives decided that the business outlook was simply too bleak to justify the annual bash. So many banquets were cancelled that housewives shopping this week for traditional new year fare found Tokyo markets awash with supplies of crab and herring, not to mention discounts.

A government report released this week said Japan's economy has come to a standstill, due mainly to a sharp decline in consumer spending, which makes up three fifths of growth. The report gave two reasons why Japanese are keeping their wallets in their pockets: first is the rise in consumption tax. In April, which senior ministers privately concede was badly timed and, second, the declining prospects for employment.

Given the nervousness, many firms decided to cut back on the lavish *seibo*, year-end gifts to business associates. In November, retail sales suffered their biggest fall on record and officials predict declines into the new year.

The ripples from Japan's recession will eventually reach London, as free-spending Japanese tourists decrease in numbers. In December, the Japan Travel Bureau forecast a decline in Japanese travelling overseas over the new year, while travel agencies are bracing for a slump in 1998.

The slowdown in the economy is forcing firms to shed workers without regard for the jobs-for-life principle. Government figures released last week show that Japan's unemployment rate stands at a postwar record high of 3.5 per cent for November.

Despite the protracted slump — the Tokyo Stock Exchange ended the year 20 per cent lower than the start of the year — Japan is not without resources. The Japanese hold a third of the world's total savings. Workers at the big Japanese manufacturers were paid generous winter bonuses: on average bonuses at 650 companies were up 3.6 per cent on 1996.

But many people are saving the money rather than spending it, and government plans to stimulate consumption, such as the proposed "Happy Monday" long weekend, have provoked ridicule.

After the excesses of the asset bubble of the 1980s, when golf memberships at fashionable clubs went for £3 million, the nation appears to have rediscovered the traditional Japanese virtue of thrift. "Just seven years ago, people were sprinkling gold dust on their desserts in Ginza restaurants. Today we hear them talking about 'noble poverty'," says Kenneth Courtis, chief economist at Deutsche Bank Group Asia Pacific.



Tokyo Stock Exchange traders bow to each other as the market ended trading for the year at 20 per cent lower

Rwandan suspect freed by US court

FROM JAMES BUNE IN NEW YORK

A MAGISTRATE in Texas has set free a Rwandan refugee wanted by the United Nations war crimes tribunal, asserting that the United States has no extradition agreement with the UN.

The decision throws into doubt America's ability to cooperate with UN tribunals on Rwanda and former Yugoslavia, despite Washington's strong political support for bringing war crimes suspects to justice.

Elizabeth Ntakirutimana, 73, was indicted by the UN tribunal based in Arusha, Tanzania, for his part in the slaughter in 1994 of Rwanda's Tutsi minority.

A prominent Hutu and trusted pastor in Mugonero, he advised local people to take refuge in the church and the hospital when the killings started. But the charges said he later led soldiers to the sanctuaries where they carried out a massacre. Mr Ntakirutimana was arrested last year in Laredo, Texas.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Bank hijacker held after hostage release

Milan: Italian police last night stormed a Milan bank and captured a man who earlier released four hostages he had held at gunpoint for 24 hours, police said. Several shots were heard as officers captured Domenico Gargano, 35, a Sicilian who had been paid four billion lire (about £1.2 million) in ransom.

He had earlier stayed in the bank with a gun and an explosive device, negotiating by telephone for his surrender, after releasing his hostages. Police said Gargano took the hostages, all officers or employees of the small branch of Banca Popolare, on Monday after being refused a loan because of his criminal record, which included convictions for robbery, violence and attempted extortion. He had demanded a helicopter to get away, but police sealed off the area surrounding the bank and called in a special reinforcement team. (AFP)

South Korea executes 23

Seoul: Twenty-three death-row inmates were executed in South Korea by hanging yesterday, including a policeman who shot dead four people over a personal grudge. They were convicted of murder, rape, robbery and other serious charges. The executions were the first in the country since November 1995 when 19 prisoners were hanged. In 1991, Kim Jun Young, 33, a police officer, drew his revolver while on duty and killed four people who, he said, had refused to drop a legal action against him. Rights groups and religious organisations demonstrated against the executions. South Korea has executed 902 people since its foundation in 1948. Thirty-six people remain on death row. (AFP)

Two killed in Delhi bus blast

Delhi: At least two people were killed and 20 wounded when a bomb exploded on a bus in the Indian capital, just as police had stopped it for a routine search. Ravi Pawar, a police spokesman, said a bomb had been planted under a seat near the back of the bus, which was packed with rush-hour passengers. In the Rampura district. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which was the latest in a series of recent explosions in the capital. The Shahid Khalsa force of Sikh separatists in the northwestern state of Punjab claimed responsibility for two attacks carried out in October. (Reuters)

What's up, doc? Stamp sales!

Washington: Bugs Bunny bounced to first place among new US postage stamps, with 45.3 million stamps collected in 1997, but Elvis Presley remains the all-time king, with 124 million stamps collected since 1963. Among the ten most popular stamps of 1997, more than 231 million were saved, an increase of more than 31 million over last year. The popularity of stamps is measured by the number collected, not those used in the post. The year-end statistics are determined through quarterly surveys sent to 60,000 homes. (AP)

Toll of 97 in Algeria killings

Paris: Ninety-seven civilians died in new massacres at fake roadblocks, raids on villages, a bomb blast and other attacks across Algeria, newspapers reported. Attackers cut the throats of 34 villagers — 19 women, 11 children and four men — at a village in the Medea area, 45 miles south of Algiers. The attackers booby-trapped one body which exploded later, wounding several people among relations and rescuers who went to the massacre site. It was reported. The violence brought to more than 300 the number of civilians killed in the past six days. (Reuters)

Jordan jails Israel plotters

Amman: Four Jordanian-Palestinians convicted of plotting attacks on Israelis have been sentenced to between ten and 15 years imprisonment with hard labour, a court official said. In sentencing them, Judge Yousef Faouri, of the State Security Court, said: "The defendants' possession of arms and explosives and their plotting attacks against Israel is a threat to the security of Jordan." Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty in 1994. The court had initially decided to sentence the four to death. (AP)

Immigrant guilty of racism

Jerusalem: An Israeli court has found Tatyana Suskin, 26, right, guilty of racism for putting up posters depicting the Prophet Muhammad as a pig. Suskin, a Russian immigrant and supporter of the outlawed anti-Arab group Kach, said she had no regrets despite being convicted of committing a racist act, harming religious sensitivities, supporting a terrorist group and endangering life by stoning a car. She put the posters up in the West Bank town of Hebron last June. (Reuters)



'Mama Doc' dies in France

Saint Cloud: Simone Duvalier, the wife of the former Haitian dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, has died near Paris aged 83. Mme Duvalier, dubbed "Mama Doc", had lived in France since 1986, when her son, Jean-Claude "Baby Doc", was ousted from power in a coup after ruling for 15 years. Francois Duvalier became President of Haiti in 1956 and ruled until 1971, when he named his son as his successor. (AFP)

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(W19) 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 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1997: a year of tears, betrayal...

Who could have predicted this time last year that 1997 would bring such dramatic swings of public emotion? Britain rejoiced with Tony Blair on May 2 — the winds of political change had restored a Labour Government for the first time in 18 years. Four months later, on a sunny morning, we mourned Diana, Princess of Wales. History may forget some of this year's movers, shakers and snapshots but, for the moment at least, says BILL FROST, we will not.



CONSPICUOUS CONSUMERS

VIKTOR KOZENY, Czech financier and restaurant legend. One lunch at the Mayfair's Le Gavroche set the so-called Pirate of Prague back more than £13,000, most of which was spent on wine. Food was taken and cigars selected from the humidor but, when the table is laden with bottles, little room is left for plates or ashtrays. Oasis wives Meg and Patsy Gallagher would be hard pressed to match such a daily total on lunch. However, their well-known fondness for designer labels and assorted gewgaws can reach similar heights. And there is plenty of time for the pair to go for a new record once the ghastly new year sales are over.

BABY OF THE YEAR

KARLI HAWTHORNE, snatched from Basildon Hospital hours after her birth then reunited with her parents. Tanya, the child's mother, said: "She cried all the way home, but the minute we set her down she started sleeping."

BAD SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER (no contest). Slamming his Ferrari across Jacques Villeneuve's Williams Renault dur-

ing the Spanish Grand Prix was described by veteran driver Stirling Moss as "quite appalling".

Villeneuve's verdict — even though he went on to win the world championship — was unprintable.

Damon Hill — who was also deprived of the victor's laurels after a collision with Schumacher at the Adelaide circuit in 1994 — added: "Michael did something that was so blatant that it tarnished his great reputation."

"Dracoidian" punishments are imposed upon people for doing something that seems fairly innocuous to many, and at other times nothing is done at all.

BRAVERY AWARDS

SIX NOMINATIONS in this category, given in no particular order.

Ann Widdecombe's onslaught on Michael Howard, her former boss at the Home Office, was by any standards a bravura performance. The dismissal of Derek Lewis, former head of the Prison Service and alleged scapegoat for a number of embarrassing escapes and other crises, was "deplorable", said Miss Widdecombe. She accused Mr Howard of "distorting" a report on the service to justify the sacking. The former Home Secretary was "obsessively concerned with controlling events", she claimed.

Lisa Potts, the nursery nurse who saved children at a picnic from a man armed with a machete by shielding them with her own body, was told by the Queen: "Yours was absolute bravery." Miss Potts, awarded the George Medal for her courage and herself injured in the attack, is still in therapy.

Josie Russell saw her sister and mother murdered on a woodland path in Kent. She, too, suffered appalling injuries. Remarkably, she has recovered. Her hair, shaved off for surgery, has now regrown and the scars she wore to cover the scars have been abandoned.

For dignity in sadness at their mother's funeral: the Princes William and Harry.

For extraordinary energy during the general election campaign while suffering the pain of terminal illness: the late Sir James Goldsmith.

DIVORCEES OF THE YEAR

THE BILLIONAIRES' ex-wife known as the Bride of Wildenstein because of the plastic surgery she has undergone says she cannot survive on £30,000 a month. Jocelyne Wildenstein, 52, revealed that she could not possibly cope on anything less than £150,000 a month.

Lorna Wendt has no complaints, though. The Connecticut wife claimed her husband was worth £60 million and fought for half. She was awarded £13 million, the family mansion and a condominium in Key Largo.



THE DEATH of Diana, Princess of Wales, has — in theory at least — taught many to mend their ways. A new code of conduct — "the toughest in Europe" — has been introduced by the Press Council, and for paparazzo now read pariah. The tragedy jolted the royals into a

THE DIANA EFFECT new mode, too — the Queen spoke movingly to the nation and the Prince of Wales mounted a charm offensive. Earl Spencer ticked off the tabloids at his sister's funeral and then lost the

moral high ground when details of his own unhappy marriage were revealed at a divorce hearing in Cape Town. In death as in life, the Princess herself continues to fascinate. The scenes of public mourning and the mountains of flowers outside Kensington Palace will stay with us all.

REVELATION OF THE YEAR



JACQUELINE DU PRÉ, once arguably the world's finest cellist, was cast in a very different light by her brother and sister in their book *A Genius in the Family* (serialised exclusively in *The Times*).

They claimed that she was spoilt, manipulative and — where men were concerned — dangerous. Her marriage to Daniel Barenboim was disintegrating when her sister, Hilary, allowed Jacqueline to sleep with her husband, Kiffer.

"Not to have done so would have precipitated Jacqueline into total breakdown," Hilary said.

"It was incredibly painful and very hard... but it is even harder to see a sister, who one loves very much indeed, at such an awful state of rock bottom."

DOWNFALL OF THE YEAR

JONATHAN AITKEN endured humiliation and public vilification over his involvement with the *Al Fayed* *et al*. But he is still not short of a bob or two, so shed no tears.

His libel action against *The Guardian* collapsed when the former Treasury Secretary, who had famously claimed to be wielding the "sword of truth", was found to have lied under oath about his bid to buy the Ritz Hotel in Paris. He said that the tab had been picked up by his wife, while the newspaper alleged it had been met by a wealthy Arab businessman.

Aitken faced a legal bill of up to £2 million. He said when the case was withdrawn that he and his family had been "broken" by the affair — and at the same time split with his wife, Lolida.

CAREER CHANGE OF THE YEAR



MARTIN BELL, veteran BBC war correspondent, was elected anti-Spencer MP for Tatton. Neil Hamilton's formerly safe Tory seat in Cheshire.

"The people's choice, and I'm very proud," he said. Later he was to admit that politics was tougher than being in a battle zone.

Eric Cantona — remember him? The big, moody French bloke decided to ditch football in favour of the screen. However, his first film, *A Question of Honour*, received scant acclaim. "Tomorrow is another day," said the Manchester United star.

WELL-REHEARSED DEATH OF THE YEAR

COLUMNIST Jeffrey Bernard, the inspiration for Keith Waterhouse's play *Jeffrey Bernard* is Unwell, who described his weekly column in *The Spectator* as a "suicide note by instalments".

The chain-smoking, heavy-drinking, gambling, womanising, silver-penned chronicler of Soho low life wrote an article ten years ago describing the sort of funeral that he wanted — a burial place in Westminster Abbey and massed pipe bands.

In the event, the service took place in a small chapel at the West London Crematorium in Kensal Green. His ashes were to be buried by the galleys at the Seven Barrows stables in Berkshire "so future generations of Derby winners can gallop over me".

SURVIVORS OF THE YEAR

NICOLA HORLICK, the former Morgan Grenfell fund manager who made a spectacular flight to the company's Frankfurt office after being suspended, is now with Société Générale and has joined the luvvies — Channel 4 has asked her to head its efforts to find sponsorship and outside backers.

Stephen Fry, polymath actor, walked out of the West End play *Cell Mates* but still remains bankable, viz his starring role in the critically acclaimed film *Wild*. "I'm not going to say I'm happy. I'm not going to say I'm in a complete state... I think I'm averagely in a state."

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SARTORIAL DISASTER

A **HUSBAND** and wife double award: the then-to-be Mrs William Hague's conference cocktail dress — or "Ffion's frock" — and the Tory leader's absurd baseball cap, worn at the Notting Hill Carnival.

Ffion's "see-through" number — short, black and lacy — was to have been the highlight of the Tory conference in Blackpool. In the event, the £2,000 frock failed to shock — short, yes; black, yes; lacy, yes. But not, unfortunately, flattering to Ffion's figure.



SARTORIAL TRIUMPH



CHERIE BLAIR showed she was First Lady of fashion by outshining Hillary Clinton when the President and his wife visited London in May.

Both women opted for neutral shades, understated accessories and neatly buttoned coats. But Mrs Blair dazzled through in her £400 grey shift dress and matching coat with satin lapels. She teamed the outfit, by her favourite designer, Ronit Zilkha, with court shoes and a simple necklace.

"Ten out of ten for the lady from No 10," wrote one fashion editor. "Cherie was the clear winner." By comparison, Hillary's outfit looked as though it had been bought from some mid-market department store.

Runner-up: Ffion Hague. Her wedding dress, a figure-hugging sheath with draped neckline, cloak and short train, was sophisticated and sexy. Like the Blackpool number, it was the work of young London designer Neil Cummingham.

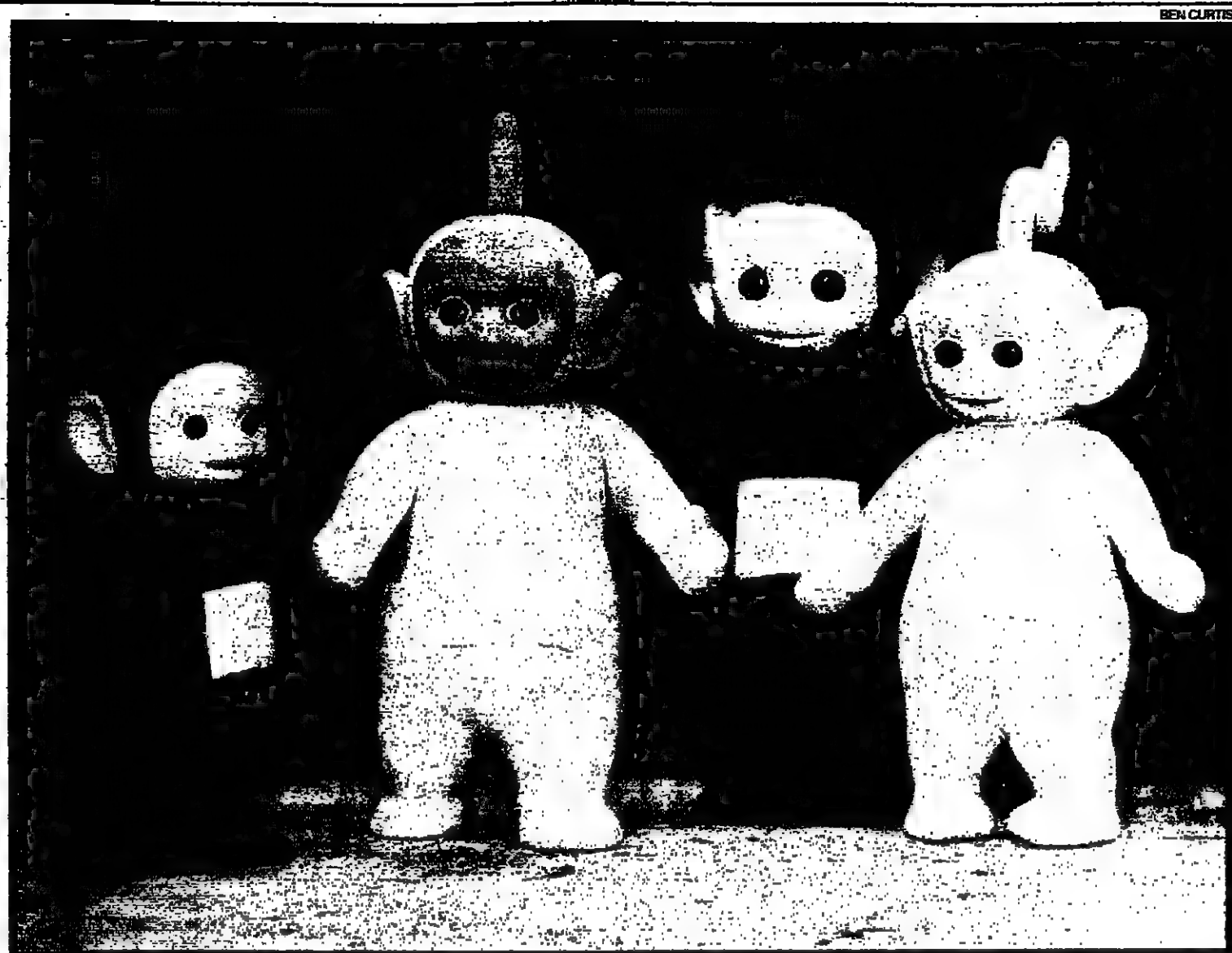
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THIS LIFE: Hotel, Teletubbies and The Full Monty. An everyday story of young professionals getting out of their heads and being promiscuous. BBC's *This Life* became compulsive viewing. The last episode pulled out all the stops: our heroes were engaged in activities too

TV AND FILM SMASH HITS OF THE YEAR

sordid to mention in a family newspaper. *Hotel* gave staff at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool a weekly fix of stardom. However, it will be interesting to see how the bookings are

faring this time next year. *Teletubbies* time is now sacrosanct in almost every household with young children. *La La La*, *Po*, *Tinky Winky* and *Dipsy* have become firmly entrenched fam-

ily favourites — they may be overweight and talk rubbish but at least they bring a few minutes' respite every day to beleaguered parents. *The Full Monty* was the surprise smash of the year

on both sides of the Atlantic. A troupe of former Sheffield steelworkers who have had enough of life on the dole decide to take their kit off for the girls and regain some dignity in the process — a low-budget production high on laughter and with bags of "feel-good" factor.

CELEBRITY DEATHS OF THE YEAR

THE murder of Gianni Versace in July at his Miami mansion exposed some of the strange excesses of the rich and famous.

The fashion designer, shot dead by 27-year-old Andrew Cunanan, was revealed as the "openly homosexual prince" of South Beach.

There was talk of mass orgies and drug abuse; a succession of young male consorts; the dark fantasies of a sadomasochistic culture.

Still, he was mourned at his funeral by the great and the good — among them Diana, Princess of Wales.

The apparent suicide of

Michael Hutchence also showed the darker side of celebrity and wealth.

Found hanging by his belt in a Sydney hotel room, the INXS rock star was said to have been high on drugs while entertaining an old flame.

Paula Yates, the minor league English celebrity he was to marry in 1998, said she would never get over his death. "Michael was the love of my life," she added.

A single tiger: Lily was among the flowers on his coffin — the couple's 16-month-old daughter is called Heavenly Hirsani Tiger



Lily, Ms Yates, who recently discovered she was the love child of the late game-show host Hughie Green, forgot

her pledge to wear widow's weeds and chose instead a revealing dress showing off her silicon-grown breasts.

SONG OF THE YEAR

CANDLE in the Wind — Elton John's tear-jerking revival of a 20-year-old song that made us all cry while watching the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Runner-up: *Say Eh-Oh*... the Teletubbies' first single was a smash. Few households with babies or small children failed to fall for Po and co's Christmas song. Next project, a world tour?

MISJUDGMENT OF THE YEAR

THE Duchess of York's attack on the Royal Family, on American television, for failing to invite her to the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh's golden wedding bash. Sarah's antics and financial difficulties are a source of considerable irritation and embarrassment at Buck House still, so expect no reconciliation in the near future — if ever.

MOST PRETENTIOUS FILM OF THE YEAR

IT WON nine Oscars but let's face it, *The English Patient* was a yawn. Frederick Forsyth spoke for many when he called it "languid to the point of inertia, pretentious, self-indulgent and with all the authenticity of *The Wizard of Oz*". Quite.



HEALTH SCORE OF THE YEAR

BSE, AND NOW beef on the bone. Agriculture Minister Jack Cunningham's ban on the latter has infuriated the meat industry and consumers alike.

A clandestine network of butchers across the country is still selling T-bone steaks and ribs as government inspectors admit that they are helpless to stop the trade.

More to the point, not everyone is convinced that the move was dictated by health concerns; could be more a case of having a tilt at our European partners.

DIVA OF THE YEAR

A SPECIAL award goes to Gerald Kaufman, waspish chairman of the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, for putting a bomb under the Royal Opera House in October with a lacerating report highlighting a performance of financial "incompetence".

Poor planning had plunged the company into the worst crisis of its 51-year history — the board resigned en masse, having run up debts of almost £5 million — and Mr Kaufman told them that "the Arts Council would be nuts to give you an extra penny until you have sorted yourselves out".

He attacked Mary Allen, the new chief executive, for saying that a larger public subsidy was needed.

The ROH's financial affairs were "a shambles" and the company was "wandering around London like the Flying Dutchman" in search of more cash to waste.

No bouquets from the good and the great for his performance perhaps, but definitely three cheers from those who cannot afford even a seat in the gods.

BETRAYAL OF THE YEAR

THE Blair like cats, said the Prime Minister's spokesman after claims that Humphrey, Downing Street's very own mouser, had gone to meet his maker.

Reports, started by diarist and serial philanderer Alan Clark, that the animal's death warrant had been signed by Cherie Blair after the animal had soiled a designer frock were hotly denied.

Snap of the cat (complete with that day's newspaper to prove authenticity) taken at a secret location in southeast London have failed to satisfy everyone. The question remains: "Could Humphrey have been put to the sword for peeing on Cherie's dress?"

MOST WELCOME DEPARTURES FROM PUBLIC LIFE

JONATHAN AITKEN (also Downfall) and rightwinger David Evans. The former Treasury Secretary now wields no influence. A future role on the political stage is unlikely. Evans lost his seat last May. Mr Major was said to have cheered when he heard the result.

"Mr Mad", as the former MP for Welwyn Hatfield had been known, was notorious for his sexist and racist outbursts — Virginia Boninley was "dead from the neck up" and his Labour rival "a single girl with three bastard children", he proclaimed.

DIGNITY IN DEFEAT

JOHN MAJOR: a speech that gave the man a gravitas he perhaps lacked while Prime Minister. You may not have liked his party, but in the small hours of May 2 his words made even the staunchest new Labour supporter feel sorry for him. And a tear for Chris Patten, the last emperor of Hong Kong. Let us hope Central Office finds him a safe seat, if such an option remains for a Tory candidate. Failing that, he may join the race to become elected mayor of London. Michael Portillo: From the moment Margaret Thatcher's heir apparent heard that he had lost his Enfield Southgate seat to a man named Twigg, he became a model of dignity and restraint. The former Defence Secretary went from being an arrogant, quiffed zealot while in office to a model of humility on the night of defeat. "It was not put on, I promise," he said later. "I was devastated."



BOUNDERS OF THE YEAR

EARL SPENCER'S treatment of his wife, Victoria — as revealed in the Cape Town divorce proceedings — may have angered every right-thinking woman. A real contender in this category.

Try this one for size, though: Nicole Contos was left at the altar when her fiancé bolted to Tabiti. Michael Tasos, an Anglo-Cypriot maritime lawyer, dumped his bride at the Greek Orthodox Church in Manhattan then fled off on honeymoon by himself. Runner-up: Piers Merchant, married former Tory MP for Beckenham. His "friendship" with an 18-year-old Soho bar hostess — "she slept on the sofa" — came at a crucial pre-election point when sleaze and

UGLY BLOKE OF THE YEAR

the Tory party were synonymous. Mr Merchant described the teenager as a family friend and briefly convinced party bosses he was not a liability. However, further tabloid revelations about the relationship brought his political career to an abrupt end.

BORES OF THE YEAR

MR AND MRS Neil Hamilton, tarred with the Al Fayed brush. The Spice Girls: tarty and dull.

The River Café, West London's most fashionable restaurant. Book a month in advance for messed-about food and pretentious company; as a disgruntled diner remarked: "A collision of inappropriate cuisines you need a mortgage for. Never again."

And what does Jade think? Her verdict after seeing him on television news after the signing of the Virgin deal... "Oh — isn't he ugly!"



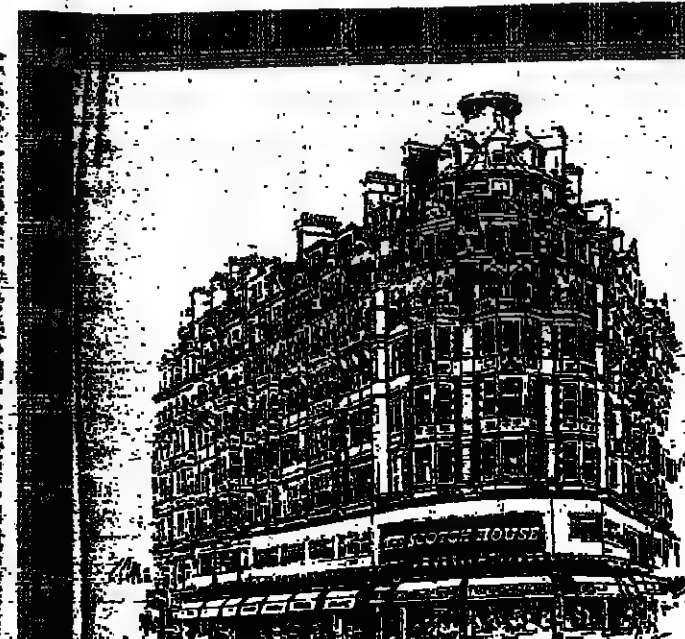
NATIONAL TRAUMA OF THE YEAR

THE death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Seeing the card to "Mummy" on her coffin was, almost certainly, the most poignant moment of this or any year in recent history.

The Queen's live broadcast summed up the feelings of a nation stricken by grief. "No one who knew Diana will ever forget her. Millions of others, who never met her,

will remember her. I, for one, believe that there are lessons to be drawn from her life and from the extraordinary reaction to her death.

"May those who died rest in peace and may we, each and every one of us, thank God for someone who made many, many people happy."



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Count me out of the party, please

Philip Delves Broughton

explains why he will not be in the festive spirit tonight

As 1899 turned to 1900, Sigmund Freud was a man best avoided. He was telling anyone who looked too cheerful that the only thing they could be sure of in the next century was that they would die in it. Some may have told him to cheer up or get back to his couch. Others would have stared into the champagne going flat in their flutes and admitted that irritatingly, Sigmund once again had a point. In his roundabout way, he was saying what millions would agree with: new year celebrations are the pits.

As an excuse for a party, new year is an arbitrary and inconvenient date dictated simply by the calendar. It comes at the end of a period of extended gluttony and celebrating, and for many is little more than a final road hump to be negotiated before the blissful purge of January. It lacks the constituent essential to the best parties: that sense of release or achievement which comes at the end of something well done, whether in the office or on the tennis court, backstage at a school play or when England thump Holland 4-1 in Euro '96.

By contrast, the looming imperative to celebrate at new year is as appealing as a drunk on the bus telling you to "cheer up," because "it may never happen."

Then there is the guilt. Why else would there be such things as new year resolutions, if not to make you feel guilty about the way you lived the year gone by? Stop smoking, work harder, stop keeping your clothes in a heap on the floor and use the wardrobe. But the warm feeling generated by one's resolutions to right these wrongs soon dissolves into the realisation that they will all be back by mid-January.

As the millennium ends, the perennial state of new year fragility is being given grandiose titles: Millennium Anxiety, Pre-Millennial Tension or Millennial Malaise.

For a cult member who has decided to spend the years up to 2000 freezing on a mountain in Colorado in anticipation of the Second Coming, then anxiety is entirely understandable. Should the Messiah decide to delay his arrival for 12 months without warning, more Virgin than Virgin birth, an ensuing malaise would also be forgivable.

For the rest of us, however, the only thing millennial about the malaise is that the normal anxiety about how or with whom to bring in the new year is being exacerbated a thousand times over.

With the arrival of a new century or a new millennium, the insecurities endemic in new year deepen and yet the demand for celebrations grows louder.

By the time 2000 comes, Britain will be in a state of nervous breakdown, like a deeply insecure host, grinning wildly, turning up the music,

herding everyone into the Dome and forcing them to have a good time whether they damned well like it or not.

There is tonight and next year to rehearse. Then it will be time for the big one and Peter Mandelson will be out with his ledger: will you be a signed-up member of New Britain's, all singing, all dancing, rosy-dawned party class? Or will you be a curmudgeon, refusing to participate in the obligatory national rejoicing, looking to Greenwich and seeing nothing but Millennium Doom?

The Government, it seems, is conspiring with the nation's party-planners, off-licences and paper hat suppliers to divide the country into those who will be attending a party and those who will not.

If national unity is what they are after, whether for their own political motives or a genuine desire for the greatest happiness of the greatest number, they could not have chosen a worse time.

The German Protestant theologian Paul Tillich argued in the 1950s that anxiety rose as civilisations declined. He described three periods of anxiety which gripped the whole of society. From Alexander the Great until the fall of Rome, men suffered from "the anxiety of fate and death".

The only means to overcome it was by performing insane acts of courage. Next came the Middle Ages and the anxiety brought on by fear of the wrath of God and the accompanying trend to guilt and condemnation.

Finally, and this is what we are suffering from, there is the anxiety brought on by victory in war, the rise of liberal democracy, pluralism and lives made easier by technology. This, Tillich called "the anxiety of emptiness and meaninglessness". Typical gloom-mongering from a German Protestant theologian, perhaps. Then again, like other Eeyore, Freud, he may have been on to something.

There is nothing especially millennial about most things said to contribute to pre-millennial tension. We just happen to be in one of Tillich's troughs, irrespective of the date. Global warming, short-term job contracts, loose nuclear weapons and impenetrable Microsoft packages would all be with us whatever we decided to call the date.

What would not remain would be the night of December 31, 1999, which now stands as the supreme test of the nation's sociability. There will be no escape to the Indian Ocean for Tony Blair then.

But on January 1, 2000, it will all be over. The millennial tension will have fallen from the nation's shoulders, and we will be able to resume our normal duty to suffer thousands of years. Now that would be an excuse to unscrew the lambrusco for a party.

Alan Coren's column will appear on Friday.



The year the world turned

Alistair Horne casts an eye back to the turbulent events of 1968

Thirty years ago, January 1 was to ring in one of the most troublesome and nasty, yet exciting, periods of the post-war era. 1968 was the year of violent student revolt, and of assassination. It determined the defeat of America in Vietnam and the fall of de Gaulle. It also displayed the fissures that were to bring the whole Soviet monolith toppling two decades later.

Some caught up in it likened 1968 to that other year of revolution, 1848, when old political structures across Europe collapsed like the walls of Jericho.

In Paris in the last week of February, 1848, three days of totally unexpected events brought down the liberal Louis-Philippe, last King of France.

Given the paucity of communications, what was remarkable about 1848, was how revolution in Paris spread in a simultaneous shockwave across Europe. In Vienna the seemingly immortal Metemurich — who had given Europe its past three decades of peace — was deposed.

In Britain alone revolution proved a damp squib: a demo of an alleged half-million Chartists mustering on the South Bank to march on Parliament was headed off by a combination of the Iron Duke's brilliant strategy and London rain.

By the end of 1848, except for Britain, there were dictators in almost every country of Europe.

Back to 1968: January: In America Dr Benjamin Spock, of nursery fame, was indicted for anti-draft activities, while in Russia the writer Alexander Ginzburg was jailed for "slandering the State". Both were indications of what 1968 held in store.

On the 31st the Vietcong seized advantage of the traditional new year's Tet celebrations to launch a major co-ordinated series of attacks on South Vietnamese cities. Briefly, it looked as if the Vietcong had won. But the US forces reacted with vigour, inflicting a clear-cut defeat on the Vietcong.

None of this was seen in America, however, nor did Americans want to see it. A much greater impact was made by the photograph of the brutal public execution of a young Vietcong suspect, while President Johnson's decision to send another 50,000 troops to Vietnam was taken as sure sign that Tet had been a Communist victory. Campuses across America erupted.

February: France's Jean-Claude Killy won three golds in the Winter Olympics; three East German con-

petitors were disqualified for heating the runners of their toboggan. Richard Nixon announced he would run for President in 1968. But America was stunned by the announcement that President Johnson, worn down by Vietnam and anti-war protest, would not be a candidate. March: Polish police clashed with students demonstrating for greater freedom in Czechoslovakia. Communist Party chief Alexander Dubcek sparked off the heady Prague Spring by relaxing press censorship and arresting the chief of police. For a few rapturous weeks it looked as if

freedom would regain the freedom it had lost 20 years previously.

April: On the 4th, in Memphis, Martin Luther King was assassinated. Race riots fired cities from Los Angeles to Harlem: machine gun posts were set up outside the White House.

In Germany a left-wing student, Rudi Dutschke, was shot in the head by a gunman claiming to emulate the King shooting. Dutschke survived, but the shooting triggered off student riots across Germany.

May: First reports in Britain that student unrest was spreading to Paris were eclipsed by arrest of the Kray brothers, by Enoch Powell's "rivers of blood" speech, and by news that the Greek Colonels had sacked 14 government ministers for a "subversive" report on matchboxes. But, suddenly, on the tenth anniversary of de Gaulle's coming to power, it was apparent that all France was being rocked by *les événements* at the Sorbonne.

Trouble had started back in February at Nanterre, a particularly drab suburban campus where sociology predominated, under left-wing professors, though most of the students came (by car) from the essentially bourgeois arrondissements of western Paris. With a few hundred supporters, revolt was carried from Nanterre to the Sorbonne by a red-headed firebrand, Dany Cohn-Bendit, who was not even French, but the son of affluent German-Jews.

At the Sorbonne, Cohn-Bendit found the most inflammable materi-

al. With more than 130,000 students crammed into desperately overcrowded classrooms, the education was archaic. There was little contact with the professors, unmotivated by either obligations or sanctions. The primary object of the rebel students was to establish student power within the Sorbonne; secondarily to achieve sexual freedom within the precincts.

On May 5 the Paris police closed down the Sorbonne, arresting 500 students. They over-reacted, causing many hundreds of casualties (miraculously, no deaths). The students took to the streets, supported by some professors and parents.

Swiftly what started as a student revolt became political, aimed at nothing less than overthrow of the de Gaulle government. Slogans such as "Ten Years is Enough" and "France is Bored" (a famous 1848 banner revived) appeared everywhere.

The Government was caught totally unprepared. De Gaulle was in Romania; Premier Pompidou in Afghanistan. By the third week in May, Paris was paralysed, with no petrol in the pumps and food running short.

Students tried to take the revolt to the big Renault works at Billancourt, but, with the mighty Communist Party just as much off balance as the Government, the unions declined to follow the Sorbonne's lead.

In what seemed like panic and without telling his Prime Minister for a moment, Pompidou thought he was doing a Louis-Philippe flit, on Wednesday, May 29, de Gaulle flew mysteriously to Baden-Baden — to get the support of General Massu and the French Army in Germany. On the Thursday he returned, making the last powerful radio appeal of his career. That evening the Champs-Élysées filled with a hundred-thousand pro-Gaullists.

By the 31st order had been restored and France's most frightening week since the war was over. Attention shifted to the Vietnam peace talks, also under way in Paris. In Britain revolt hit Essex University — but it was a pale reflection of the Sorbonne. June: An art-loving actress shot Andy

Warhol, unsuccessfully. Two days later Bobby Kennedy was assassinated in Los Angeles by a 24-year-old Palestinian, Sirhan Sirhan. August: Russian tanks crossed into Czechoslovakia.

September: Prague returned to the grip of Moscow winter as censorship of the press was reimposed. In London the cast of *Hair* stripped the day after play censorship was abolished.

October: 250,000 marched on the American Embassy in Grosvenor Square in an anti-Vietnam demonstration. As in 1848, fears of revolution in London proved exaggerated; the demo ended good-humouredly, with marchers linking arms with the police and singing *Auld Lang Syne*.

John Lennon and Yoko Ono were arrested on drugs charges, and Jackie Kennedy married Aristotle Onassis.

November: Nixon elected President. LBJ in his last act ordered an end to bombing in Vietnam. In a final protest against Soviet repression, Prague students occupied the university. Eril Blyton died.

December: Apollo 8 made the first flight around the Moon.

In the words of the popular anti-war song of those days, where did all the flowers of 1968 go? Some became ageing hippies, or nurtured the politically correct in the universities. Alexander Dubcek disappeared into exile, but survived; Czechoslovakia, along with the rest of Eastern Europe, regained its freedom 20 years later.

In France, after the "Events of May" — as in Brezhnev's Soviet Union — the Communist Party went into a terminal decline. De Gaulle fell the following year. Nixon abandoned Vietnam in its fate, five years later.

Of the 1968 revolutionaries, Rudi Dutschke became the godfather of the Greens in Germany, before dying of his 1968 head wounds. Cohn-Bendit also followed a political career: in Germany, and is now a respectable Green city councillor in Frankfurt. Britain's student revolutionary, Tariq Ali, disillusioned by the British working class, became a prosperous media mogul.

In Paris, the Sorbonne suffered few reforms; with Mitterrand, followed by unemployment, few students remained in revolutionary mode. Unlike that other revolutionary year of 1848, no West European nation succumbed to revolt, or to dictatorship.

Alistair Horne is the author of *How Far from Austerlitz?* (Napoleon 1805-1915).

There will be no obit

There will be no obituary of my father in *The Times*. He was not quite good enough at cricket or cards, although he played both well when he was young. He was named after my grandfather's Yorkshire hero, Wilfred Rhodes, but lost quickly both the Wilfred and the highest ball-spinning ambitions. From soon after he was born on April 21, 1925, to soon after 2.30 on Monday afternoon, December 29, he answered to the name Max.

A man of his age might reasonably have booked his space on the obituaries page during the war. My father set out for war when he was supposed to have been setting out as a student. He joined the Royal Navy despite all his family's efforts to keep him at home. But he sailed away to West Africa on a ship called *HMS Aberdeen*. He bought red-leather knife cases and postcards of Dakar's six-domed cathedral and never fired a hostile shot except at a basking shark. He was lucky, he said; but that was then.

When he was not shooting fish or trading cans for trinkets, he studied the young science of radar, watching the many curious ways that waves behave in the air above the sea. He was not a radar pioneer in the sense that our obituaries would require. He was one of thousands who fiddled with diodes, quartz and wire to make radar work. That was how he spent most of the rest of his life.

He returned to England when the war was won and took up the place at Nottingham University which he had won before. He battled and bowled and played bridge and studied physics. He had a striped blue-green-yellow blazer, which he bequeathed to his son long before this week and which made it easier for my friends to recognise me at Oxford in the Seventies in the dark. It will go in turn to his beloved granddaughter or grandson — whichever might want it first.

He had a brain which engineers described as Rolls-Royce. It was powerful but he did not like to test it beyond a guess. On July 17, 1950, he joined the Marconi Company at its research laboratory in Great Baddow, Essex, on a salary of £340 per year. He worked on many and various half-forgotten, half-successful, mostly never needed air defence systems that protected British skies during the Cold War. He reasoned through his problems in an armchair at home, spreading files marked "Secret" like fishermen's nets. He preferred to solve technical glitches in series not in parallel. He found solutions singly. He hated to stress the machinery of his mind.

Later he became a manager for Marconi and a salesman whom, in my own too simple student days, I would call an arms salesman. He travelled and loved to travel. He came to know thousands of fellows in the science of spotting fast-moving objects in the sky. He loved Marconi, and later the Ericsson Radar Company, for whom he worked in his retirement. He had space in his purring life for hundreds to be his friend. But he long did not seek the advancement that an obituary would wish; and latterly, when he sought it, he did not find it.

He sometimes misunderstood people. He liked to see them as electro-machinery, as fundamentally capable of simple, selfless working. He was closed to the communications of art. His favourite picture was a photograph of an oil-production platform being towed through a ford. He listened to no music. He was especially offended by the violin and the soprano voice. His passions were for moving parts, moving balls, jet-streams in the skies over air shows, Channels' golf club, the Royal Marines and Beutys restaurant on St Martin's Lane. Other minds were not his pasture.

If I had asked him his own list of passions this week, it would have been headed by the Farleigh Hospice in Chelmsford, whose powers of love and peace-bringing should be celebrated in sky-written letters of gold. Their nurses saved his death. He claimed that he had never had a dream until the painkillers for his prostate cancer brought him dreams, too. On Monday he died peacefully in dimorphic dreams.

Thirty years ago, when I was setting off for Oxford to study Latin and Greek, he gave me his own father's copy of the second six books of Virgil's *Aeneid*. The name B. Stothard, in firm now faded hand, still sits inside the flyleaf. My wonderful father did not much care for Latin or for my studying it. But he never tried to stop me. He never closed a gate. I felt guilt this week when the best farewell that I could say was in the adapted words of Catullus "atque in perpetuum, pater, ave atque vale". I think he heard me.

Atque in perpetuum there is no need for an obituary in *The Times*.

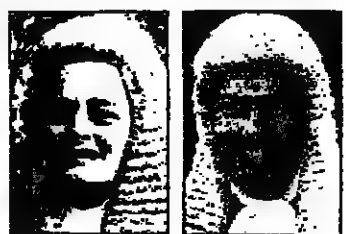
PETER STOTHARD

Star billing

PLEASE do not tell the Lord Chancellor, but Cherie Booth has joined a campaign to increase the legal aid bill. Ms Booth has signed up to an outfit which is determined to boost the already burgeoning bill — just as my old friend Lord Irvine of Lairg tries to trim the cost. Before paddling off to the Seychelles, Cherie pledged her support for the Equal Opportunity Action Unit which — naughtily — wants to boost funds for moaning employees at tribunals. Ministers seek to scrap legal aid in most civil cases, to save £800 million a year. But the EOAU wants to increase the bill by allowing legal aid to those claiming money from employers. Happily, this would give more to £1,000-a-day employment lawyers — including Ms Booth.

Margaret McCabe, EOAU chairwoman, says: "Cherie is one of a number of leading lawyers who have come together to suggest changes so that employment law truly provides access to justice." Cherie knows about minorities. She made her debut before the European Court defending a lesbian railworker's girlfriend. The group also wants to offer mentors to lawyers. Irvine performed that role for Tony Blair and Ms Booth, who tolled in his chambers — extending his services to playing matchmaker.

THE ghost of General Patton lives on in Wales. A monoplane he flew in the war now belongs to



Shhhh... Cherie, Irvine

Maurice "Captain" Kirk, friend of the bibulous Oliver Reed, who buzzes over the Valleys. He has just had an accident, leaving him wedged in a hedge up a 400ft hill. "The plane was flying backwards," he explains. "The 90mph headwind was faster than my top speed."

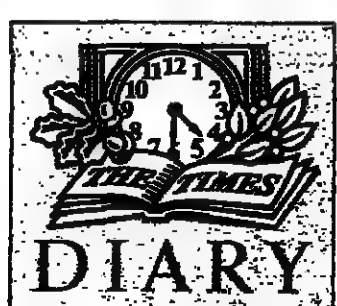
Hail, caesar

MANY were surprised by the sudden promotion of Alan Johnson,

the new Labour MP, to his first government job. I can suggest a reason. He recently acquired a fashionable "messy" haircut, the close-cropped style modelled by Tony Blair. Word spread of the ultra-loyal crim belonging to the man dubbed "Blair's favourite union leader" when boss of the communication workers. "What can I say except 'Et tu, Brute'." says the new FPS to Dawn Primarolo, Treasury Minister. "A change of haircut is a very underestimated facet of modern politics. I doubt many Tory MPs could emulate their leader." Now that the makeover has served its purpose, Johnson feels free to speak about his Blair-cut. "Tony sweeps his hair back over the top, what's left of it. He's trying to cover up a bald patch," says the soon-to-be demoted MP.



Trimmer: Johnson



AT 6ft 5in, Will Self, the drug user and writer, is two inches taller than he was ten years ago. "It could be that I have grown out of my knuckle-grazing days," he crooned. "Or it could simply be the result of all my clean living and plenty of exercise."

First addition

A NEWSPAPER dynasty is emerging in the aristocratic climes of Essex, in Theydon Bois. David Sullivan, proprietor of the lurid but lucrative *Sport* newspapers, has become a proud father. The happy gurgles of David Edward Kenneth Sullivan are now echoing through Sullivan Towers, a £7 million mansion resplendent with zebra-covered banquets. The mother has been identified as Emma Benton-Hughes. "She's not

a toff. She runs a fan club for Page 3 Girls and she used to be one herself. I don't know if we will get married but the important thing is that young David grows up healthy and happy," he says.

The future of the Sullivan publishing empire could lie with the new addition. "I won't push him into newspapers but I would be happy for him to read the *Sport* after he is eight."

A CHANGE of (London) address arrives from Lord St John of Fawley, listing the number of his "electric telephone".

Leaky John

EARLY reports that Elton John is to receive a knighthood in the New Year's Honours List have disturbed Buck House. Not only is such a momentous award to be bestowed upon a mere song and dance man but news of his elevation began to leak a fortnight ago. Previous Governments have maintained a strict embargo. The Palace has suspicions about the source of the leaks. "I would speak to No 10 about it," suggested a spokesman. Downing Street was being particularly coy for once. "We will address the issue of a leak." Just don't expect a terribly far-reaching inquiry by that nice Alastair Campbell.



Great Dane: Cecile

AN ACTRESS whose energetic manoeuvres light up the latest James Bond saga has become a heroine in her native Denmark. Cecile Thompson, who puts 007 through his linguistic paces in Tomorrow Never Dies, has been chosen by the Nordic tourist board as the face of Denmark for an advertising campaign. "Denmark is very proud because Bond girls have always been Swedish, Norwegian or Russian," she says. Never again, I suspect. Happy New Year.

JASPER GERARD



MAYHEM AND MOI

Kenya's only sensible course is to hold fresh elections

Even by the miserable standards that Kenyans have become accustomed to, this week's presidential, parliamentary and local government elections have been a disgrace. The campaign itself may have been less violent than was that for Kenya's first multi-party elections in 1992, although people have still been intimidated, gassed and killed and things organised by the ruling KANU party have made some parts of the country no-go areas for opposition candidates. The bill may be less ruinous than it was in 1992, when President Daniel arap Moi is estimated to have spent the equivalent of \$250 million, four times the cost of President Clinton's re-election campaign, and financed it by running the printing presses. But the Government has announced unaffordable pay rises for the public sector, and there has been massive vote-buying, particularly by KANU, in a blatant attempt to settle the outcome well ahead of polling day.

The elections were thus never going to be "free and fair" by any reasonable criteria. What has reduced them to a farce, however, is the chaos at the polling booths. Kenyans turned out on Monday in far higher numbers than had been predicted, given the poor prospects of unseating Mr Moi, only to find polling stations shut because ballot papers and boxes had not arrived or election officials had failed to turn up. Many opened hours late or not at all, and when they did, many electoral rolls were incomplete.

As complaints poured in, Kenya's formally independent Election Commission extended voting into Tuesday in constituencies affected by "logistical" problems. But this only increased the confusion because it did not say where voting was to continue, where it had ended, or when vote-counting could start in different parts of the country. The instruction, in any case, never reached most rural areas; and even yesterday, many stations still had no ballot papers. Used as they

are to being bribed and browbeaten, Kenyan voters have this time been insulted beyond endurance. No one ascribes to this mere incompetence. As the respected *Daily Nation* delicately put it, these "Chaplinesque" failures have been "so widespread and so varied as to raise suspicions concerning the honesty of the exercise".

Mr Moi himself has joined the chorus of opposition complaints and accused the commission of rigging the elections. If he believes that, he ought immediately to have annulled the elections and ordered a rerun. It is of course possible that his anger is genuine, that he fears that incompetence has upset well-aid KANU plans to "organise" the vote. But since KANU officials have ruled out cancellation, the President's claim that the rigging was "in favour of the Opposition" rings hollow. The truth is more likely to be that Mr Moi is confident of victory, at least in the presidential race, judging that the Opposition is so divided that he stands to win even if most Kenyans vote against him. Recognising that malpractice cannot this time be denied, he may be aiming to calm popular anger by shifting the blame on to the commission.

For Kenya, his cynicism could be perilous. This has been a bitter electoral battle in a country that is broke, shorn of illusions and impatient for real reform. That is why crowds have flocked to Charity Ngilu, the fearless presidential candidate who stands out as untainted in a country where corruption is endemic. After last summer's violent suppression of demonstrations, Mr Moi was forced to bend to demands for constitutional reform but, with constituency boundaries drawn in KANU's favour and up to three million young voters likely to vote for the Opposition left off the new register, these have meant little in practice. If hope is denied, violence could return. As Kenyans know, wounded beasts are dangerous.

STEADY, EDDIE

The Governor should resist raising interest rates further

Governors of the Bank of England are paid to be cryptic. The biggest sin for a Governor — as bad as a Chancellor giving away Budget secrets — is to let slip an opinion on the future direction of interest rates. So it was that City traders pored over Eddie George's interview on the *Today* programme yesterday for ruminations as to which way rates would go. By the evening they were still unsure: would the economy slow down of its own accord, or was the Governor planning to help it to do so with a rate rise?

What is uncontested is that the economy needs to slow down in 1998. It cannot keep up the past year's rate of growth without a resurgence of inflation. But the critical question is whether interest rates need to rise still further — on top of the five increases since the general election — or whether the action taken so far will prove to be enough to produce a slowdown without a recession: what economists like to call a "soft landing".

Mr George sees risks on both sides. If rates are not raised again, there is the risk of inflation. If they are, there is the risk of recession. The balance between the two risks, however, should not be seen as equal. It makes more sense to err on the side of optimism, to assume that inflation is a lesser danger than recession.

Almost all the economic indicators point that way. Consumer spending before Christmas was modest — and if it picks up in the sales, that shows that bargain-hunting is still the prevalent mentality, a healthy sign for inflation. House prices are growing only slowly, and the increase is predicted to

flatten out next year. Yesterday's figures on mortgage lending confirm that the housing market is calming down.

Meanwhile, exports are beginning to suffer as a result of the pound's strength, which is proving a less temporary phenomenon than many in the City had expected. And the crisis in the Far East is likely to have a deflationary effect on all Western economies over the coming year.

It may also be time to reassess our assumptions about how much unemployment can fall before prices start to rise. In the United States, economists spent years falsely predicting a return of inflation because they did not believe that the economy could function healthily with unemployment at such low levels. Similarly, many economists here were suggesting a year ago that unemployment could fall no further without inflation taking hold. It has, and prices are still under control.

It looks as if the supply-side measures taken by the Conservatives really have reduced the safe rate of unemployment. And the Welfare to Work programme may cut it still further. But there is no way of testing how low it can fall if bankers continue to work on old assumptions, and raise interest rates before the bottom has been reached.

Mr George and his Monetary Policy Committee have so far taken the right decisions. We trust that they will continue to do so in 1998. The peak in interest rates should by now have been reached. The Bank can afford to sit back and watch its past actions take effect.

STAFF OF LIFE

In the British breadbin less consumption means more choice

Fifty years ago bread rationing was ended. Today that sounds like a statistic from a nutritionist. But in 1948 it was the sign that the lean years of hunger were finally coming to an end. Now that 50 years have passed, the choice of our daily bread is greater than ever but its place on our tables less conspicuous.

Other rationed goods such as butter and sugar, meat and marmalade were missed more keenly. But Corporal Joneses also kept bread "under the counter". And the Ministry of Food invented Potato Pete to encourage people to eat one of the few foods not in short supply. His recipes on the Kitchen Front recommended mashed potato sandwiches.

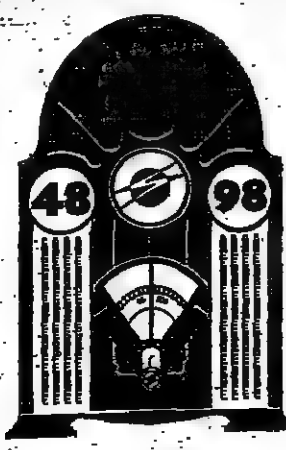
Even after the war, rationing was cut again. Supplies of essential foods now had to be shared with the liberated but starving continental countries. Rationing, high taxes and shortages had bitten deep into the way of life of the average family. Britons had reduced their consumption of food to four-fifths of their peacetime level. To ration bread, one of the oldest and cheapest forms of Western food, was as serious as it was in ancient Rome. So the return of white bread without coupons instead of the gritty, grey "Austerity" loaf, was a national landmark.

Since 1948 consumption of bread has more than halved. Today *Economist* statistics estimate the weekly household consumption of bread in Great Britain at 758 grammes per person. Bread now represents 4 per cent of domestic spending on food, costing £1.991

million a year. For 50 years ago you should treble that percentage and the amounts in pounds avoidpounds and sterling in real terms. In 1948 a "doorstep" of bread with a scrape of dripping was a healthy treat to make the mouth water. Today it would give the nanny state a heart attack. Fifty years ago sliced bread was a novel luxury. But by 1981 Sainsbury's ran a campaign that added to British idiom: "The best thing since the invention of sliced bread — unsliced bread".

If bread has declined as a percentage of the household budget and as padding for the diet of the growing child, it has branched out into a thousand designer bakes. Such traditional loaves as the bloomer and the split-tin survive. But to them have been added the French baguette, the German pumpernickel, and the Italian ciabatta or "slipper" bread, stuffed with olives or sundried tomatoes. Today bread comes in shapes and grains

undreamed of 50 years ago. Poppadums and chapatis are among the most popular varieties of bread, just as curry has replaced roast beef (especially on the bone) as the traditional English dish. Bread will probably continue to rise for the next 50 years, in variety if not in volume of sales or importance to the national diet. More choice will provide breads for all tastes and fads. Man still does not live by bread alone. But, in spite of the priggish strictures of the nutritional bibles, he will have an ever-increasing choice of his daily bread.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 6XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Main obstacle to Ulster stability

From Mr J. F. Q. Switzer

Sir, You rightly compliment the Northern Ireland Secretary on having "wisely but belatedly" acknowledged the need to "move quickly to rebuild confidence among Northern Ireland's peaceable pro-Union majority" (leading article, December 29). That peaceable majority has felt increasingly deserted, particularly since the disastrous statement by Peter Brooke, then Northern Ireland Secretary, in a speech on November 9, 1990, that the Government had "no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland".

This was certainly interpreted by the IRA and by Irish nationalists generally as meaning that the Government no longer cared about sovereignty, and the stream of concessions to republicans during the current political talks has helped to convince everyone, Unionists and nationalists alike, that that interpretation was correct.

In the background stands the Constitution of the Republic, which states that "the national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland". It is intolerable that we should have representatives of the Dublin Government taking part in discussions on the future of a part of our country when they already lay claim to jurisdiction over it.

Furthermore, these representatives have their hands tied by the decision of the Dublin Supreme Court in March 1990 that "the reintegration of the national territory is a constitutional imperative". Genuine discussions between the Republic and the United Kingdom are thus rendered impossible.

In the Downing Street declaration of December 15, 1993, the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland made "a solemn commitment to promote co-operation... on the basis of... obligations under international agreements" (report, December 16, 1993). The Irish claim to British territory is not only incompatible with the Republic's membership of the European Union but patently contravenes the provisions of the Helsinki Agreement.

The most important single action that our new Government could take to re-establish political stability in Northern Ireland is to persuade the Dublin Government to adopt an ethical foreign policy in conformity with the Downing Street declaration and to repudiate its illegal claim to British territory.

The United Kingdom is about to assume the presidency of the European Union. Can we now hope for speedy action in Brussels to end a constitutional absurdity that has no place in the Europe of 1998?

Yours faithfully,
J. F. Q. SWITZER,
Sidney Sussex College,
Cambridge CB2 3HU.
December 30.

Maze inquiry

From Mr Oliver A. W. Lodge

Sir, Appointing HM Chief Inspector of Prisons to conduct an inquiry into security at the Maze prison (report, December 30) is certainly a positive step, but it cannot be for him to attribute ultimate responsibility when the prison authorities have already recognised specific deficiencies by introducing random searches of cells. Is no one going to resign, or is it a wait-and-see-who-gets-blamed policy?

One does not have to have an elephantine memory to recollect that before coming to office the Labour Party firmly held the view that ministers, indeed Cabinet ministers, should resign when serious breaches of prison security arose. May we know what has changed their minds?

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER A. W. LODGE,
2 Nimrod Road, SW16 6SY.
December 30.

Prison education

From Dr Paul G. Ellis

Sir, May I suggest a further step beyond Lord Patten's suggestion (article, December 16; letters, December 22) of offering prisoners the option of studying for an educational qualification as a condition for a lesser sentence?

Why not go the whole way — prisoners qualify for earlier release not merely by studying for an educational qualification, but by educating themselves into an improved, approved and appropriate career/job offer which will enable them not only to support themselves, but to do so better than formerly?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL G. ELLIS,
c/o City University Business School,
Sebastien Street, EC1V 9JA.
ellis@city.ac.uk

Home births

From Mr Paul Ketteridge

Sir, The nursing home I was born in (letters, December 16, 22) is now an old people's home. No doubt they will have me back.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL KETTERIDGE,
Bankside Cottage, 7 Church Street,
North Marston MK18 3PH.
December 27.

The Church's role in hunting debate

From Mr N. R. Cowling

Sir, According to the RSPCA, "at least 200,000 foxes are killed every year by shooting, snaring or road accidents. Only about 15,000 are killed by hunting" (Times advertisement, November 17).

The Archbishop of Wales and his colleagues (letter, December 26) urge the Government to legislate against hunting, which accounts for about 7 per cent of violent fox deaths, even though this would cause unemployment and homelessness. They express no concern for the 93 per cent of foxes which meet painful and terrifying deaths by means other than hunting.

Meanwhile I have seen it estimated that the largely urban and suburban pet cats of Britain kill about 70 million wild birds every year. Unlike the fox, many of these are in declining populations because of man's relentless exploitation of their habitats.

Is there any chance of a pamphlet from the Christian Socialist Movement on the place of wild birds in modern Britain and the ethics of keeping cats?

Yours faithfully,
N. R. COWLING,
Easton Cottage, Long Lane,
Manston, Newton Abbot TQ13 9XB.
December 28.

From Mr Paul M. Cooper

Sir, I am a churchgoer in a rural community that has used the horse for transport, agriculture and pleasure for many generations. The Christian Socialist Movement, based in London, should surely be a unifying and non-divisive organisation.

In this normally tolerant land what has happened to freedom of choice — hunting, T-bone steaks, doorsteps?

Yours etc.
PAUL M. COOPER,
Millstream Cottage, Mill Lane,
Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 8DJ.
December 28.

From Mrs Binda Large

Sir, The Archbishop of Wales and others refer to the 8th-century French bishop, St Hubert, "who was prompted by his Christian vocation to renounce deerhunting as a sport". This would appear most unlikely since St Hubert, in the Roman Catholic world, continues to be patron of huntsmen.

The legend that the stag he was

Doorstep ban

From Professor John R. Argue

Sir, I was amazed to read of new regulations announced by the Construction Minister, Nick Raynsford, to make "level thresholds" mandatory on all new homes (report, December 5; letters, December 12). While the prime reason for the change — wheelchair access — is undoubtedly laudable, the serious consequences for flooding of floors at ground level (letter, December 24) should not be overlooked.

Underground sewers which carry "foul" water and stormwater in Britain are designed, typically, to overflow "once in two years" to "once in five years", that is between 20 and 50 times per century. Ground-level floors would experience much greater risk of entry by highly polluted water than "stepped" floors, particularly in "row" housing.

Australian practice in this matter (Institution of Engineers, Australia) is for floor levels of domestic, commercial and public buildings to be set at least 300mm (1 foot) above the esti-

mated level of the "once in 100 years" stormwater flood. Furthermore, stormwater in Australian urban street drainage systems is separated from foul water flows.

The best explanation for the survival of British households in the face of urban flooding is undoubtedly the doorstep which, in technical parlance, represents a sound form of "flood-proofing".

The Victorian engineers and builders, as in so many other instances of urban infrastructure, knew very well what they were about. Surely, today's professionals can solve the problem of wheelchair access without compromising the flood security of British households? Mr Raynsford's new regulations need to await such a solution.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. ARGUE,
Associate Professor of
Water Engineering,
University of South Australia,
c/o 36 Kilwardby Street,
Ashby de la Zouch LE65 2FQ.
December 29.

now probably easier to get *petits pois* d la française in England than in France.

The French no longer seem to want to eat vegetable dishes, and their meals are the poorer for it. They have also taken to piling everything on the plate, whereas they used to serve it separately, bringing the dish in which it had been cooked to the table so that one could help oneself — and wipe one's bread round in the gravy.

It is still a pleasure to eat in France, but nothing like the pleasure it used to be.

Yours faithfully,
W. A. LOW,
65/66 Regency Square,
Brighton, Sussex BN1 2FF.
December 23.

From Professor J. F. Lazenby

Sir, I can assure Professor Lerner that there is absolutely no reason why someone sailing the Adriatic in 1270 should not have used the expression "we made wings of our oars".

The metaphorical use of "wings" for oars goes back at least as far as Homer, some 2,000 years before Dante.

Telesius tells Odysseus to find a shipless people who have "no oars, which are like wing feathers to ships" (*Odyssey* X).

Yours faithfully,
J. F. LAZENBY,
University of Newcastle,
Department of Classics,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.
December 23.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Complaint of flaw in honours system

From Mr John B. J. Lidstone

Sir, Simon Jenkins (December 27) deplores the present honours system. When John Major's "classless" society failed to bring about any change, I hoped that the "people's" Prime Minister might improve matters. But his first list was just as flawed as those of his predecessors.

By my calculation over 55 per cent of those on it received honours which went with the job.

The Queen set a good example at the beginning of her reign by abolishing the presentation at court of young women of no virtue other than sometimes their family background, but more often the depth of their purses, and greedily impoverished dowagers willing to make a bob or two by sponsorship.

Only two categories of person should be honoured: those who have performed some signal service beyond their duty or job and those who have shown outstanding heroism — no one else.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LIDSTONE,
East Lodge, 2 Orchard Fields,
Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8SN.
December 29.

Spirit of giving

From Mrs R. Emmett

Sir, I was interested in your article of December 17 on the imaginative Heifer Project for US citizens who want to donate presents rather than money to Third World families (see also letter, December 22).

I recently learned of another way in which North Americans show concern for, and give assistance to, the less fortunate. When a couple marry, if both bride and groom have previously been living independently and enter the marriage with two of everything, it is becoming the trend for them to suggest donations to charities or gifts to Third World, in lieu of wedding presents.

No doubt this idea will wind its way across the Atlantic to Britain... even here, two toasters are sufficient for two people!

Yours faithfully,
R. EMMETT,
E4 Fine Grange,
Bath Road, Bournemouth BH1 2PL.

Gift or loan?

From Mr Peter J. K. Tither

Sir, I hesitate to contradict the author of *Debre's New Guide to Etiquette and Modern Manners*, quoted by Grace Bradberry in "The end of the affair" (December 18). However, the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970 provides that gifts between engaged couples, including the ring, are only presumed (my italics) to be absolute gifts.

Evidence rebutting that presumption may show gifts to be conditional, for example upon marriage, in which case they may be recovered by law, under the Married Women's Property Act and otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. K. TITHER,
The Old Bakery,
Cydwell, Carmarthenshire SA17 4UU.

Dome spectacular

From Mr Derek W. Moss

Sir, The proposal to scrap the 12,000-seat auditorium in the Millennium Dome for a piazza visible from "all corners" of the dome (News in brief, December 24) will create an intriguing engineering conundrum. A dome with corners will be a unique millennium experience in itself!

Yours faithfully,
D. W. MOSS,
Bechwood, Box Lane,
Bovingdon, Hertfordshire MK3 0DS.
December 29.

From Mr Robin Dyke

Sir, Surely the new M logo for the year 2000 (report and photograph, December 29) should have been MM. Or would that double the £25,000 fee?

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN DYKE,
Gore House, Warborough OX10 7DB.
robin_dyke@compuserve.com
December 29.

Stitches in time

From Mr David Shamash

Sir, Something useful to do on Wednesday evening while waiting for mid-night: write 98 into the date space on the next dozen cheques in your own chequebook.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SHAMASH,
34 Floral Street, WC2E 9DJ.
December 30.

Plastic padding

From Mr Philip Smith

Sir, I now have 35 bank, cash, debit, credit, store, loyalty, airmiles, security and identity cards in my wallet. Where will it all end?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP SMITH,
15 Pyots Hill, Old Basing RG24 8AR.
December 30.

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NUMBER 31 1997
NEWS IN BRIEF

Cancer deaths
own over
10 years

Wall from flyover

Mail alert cash

Shed schools

Major rescues

Mystery

serpent

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uniform

SOCIAL
NEWS

The Princess Royal, Honorary Fellow, The Royal Society of Medicine, will give a lecture and attend a reception, at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1 on January 7.

Birthdays today

Mr Douglas Anthony, CH, former Australian Deputy Prime Minister, 68; Mr Glanville Benn, publisher, 92; Sir George Blunden, former Deputy Governor, Bank of England, 75; Mr Michael Bonallack, golfer, 63; Sir George Christie, chairman, Glyndebourne Productions, 63; Mr Stephen Cleobury, organist, 49; Air Marshal Sir Patrick Dunn, 85; Mr Roy Greenfield, former Editor, *Daily Mirror*, 51; Miss Tess Jaray, artist, 60; Mr Ben Kingsley, actor, 54; Mr Sandy Marshall, former chairman, Commercial Union Assurance, 73; Dr Valerie Pearl, former President, New Hall, Cambridge, 71; Mr Jean-Pierre Rives, former rugby player, 45; Sir Nigel Rudd, chairman, Williams Holdings, 51; Sir John Sainsbury, former Clerk of the Parliaments, 63; Mr Alex Salmon, MP, 43; Sir David Walker, former chairman, Securities and Investments Board, 58.

University
news

The university has awarded honorary degrees to the following: Mr Peter Kellner, political commentator for *The Observer* and the *Evening Standard* — Doctor of Letters; Mr Keith Gardner, former Principal of Oundle College, Hertfordshire — Master of Science; Mr David Pannick, QC, Recorder and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford — Doctor of Laws; Professor Sir Harry Kroto, FRSE, joint winner of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, 1996 — Doctor of Science; Mr Alec Mohr, chairman of Oscar Faber, consulting engineers — Doctor of Science; Mr John Phipps, visiting research fellow of the university, formerly of British Aerospace — Master of Science; Baroness Young of Old Scone, Chief Executive of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds — Doctor of Science; Mr Stan Tracey, jazz pianist and composer — Doctor of Letters; Sir Norman Lindsay, formerly Director of Hatfield Polytechnic and Principal of Hatfield College of Technology, antecedents of the university — Doctor of Science; Ms Adrienne Finch, radiographer — Doctor of Science; Mr John Greenwood, former Midwifery Officer at the Ministry of Health — Doctor of Science; Sir Herbert Laming, former Director of Social Services for Hertfordshire — Doctor of Science; Dr Frank Baker, former Principal of West Herts College of Further Education — Master of Science.

Latest wills

Arnold Hardings Lever, company director, of Baldon, Shipley, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £5,570 net.
John Arthur Bernard Keeling, of Sedlescombe, East Sussex, left estate valued at £5,466,503 net.
He left £10,000 to St Michael's Hospice, Devonport, £5,000 to the Roman Catholic Church at Santa, Richard Laurence, of Newport, Isle of Wight, left estate valued at £1,594,486 net.
Albert Norman Robinson, of West Wittering, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,278,133 net.
Deborah Clare Sebag-Montefiore, of Warborough, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £1,049,463 net.
Edith Rowena Jocelyn Stewart, of London SW7, left estate valued at £1,020,099 net.
John Samuel Tee, chartered surveyor, of London SE1, left estate valued at £1,020,099 net.
Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Houlter, of Farnham, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,020,099 net.
Diamond Charles Waldron, of Lushington, Devon, left estate valued at £1,008,010 net.
He left £1,000 each to Macmillan Fund for Nurses, London, Dogs Home and the South West Children's Hospice.
The Rev Basil John Wood, of Lifford, Surrey, left estate valued at £572,850 net.
Nora Beckett, of Sleaford, Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £538,175 net.
Reginald Henry Berry, of Christchurch, Dorset, left estate valued at £544,530 net.
James Coward, of Kirby in Furness, Cumbria, left estate valued at £537,489 net.
Gertrude Margaret Dwyer, of Dunington, York, left estate valued at £504,562 net.
Benjamin Frederick Douglas Haywood, of Rotherham, South Yorkshire, left estate valued at £508,227 net.

MERCURY is a morning star of 0 magnitude and can be seen until mid-month low in southeastern twilight before sunrise. It reaches greatest western elongation from the Sun (23 degrees) on the 6th when it rises an hour and a half before the Sun.

Venus begins the new year as a brilliant evening star but within a few days will be too close to the Sun for observation, reaching inferior conjunction on the 16th, when it passes between the Earth and Sun. The -4.5 magnitude planet will reappear in the southeastern morning sky. It will become a prominent object during February and March before moving back into morning twilight for the next six months. After superior conjunction in October Venus will become an evening star again, but it will be low and in twilight until the end of the year. Moon to the south on the 26th-27th.

Mars is 1.2 magnitude and moving steadily eastwards against the stars, passing from Capricornus into Aquarius during January. It sets about two hours after the Sun and should be visible in southwestern twilight throughout the month. Moon to the north on the 1st and 29th.

Jupiter also moves from Capricornus into Aquarius during January, the -2.0 magnitude planet setting only an hour and a half after sunset by the 31st. Moon to the north on the 1st and 29th. Mars close by about the 20th.

Saturn is in Pisces and 0.7 magnitude. By end January it will be setting after 23h. Moon nearby on the 31st. Uranus in Capricornus and reaches conjunction with the Sun on the 28th. It will not be observable this month.

Neptune is in Sagittarius and in conjunction on the 19th.

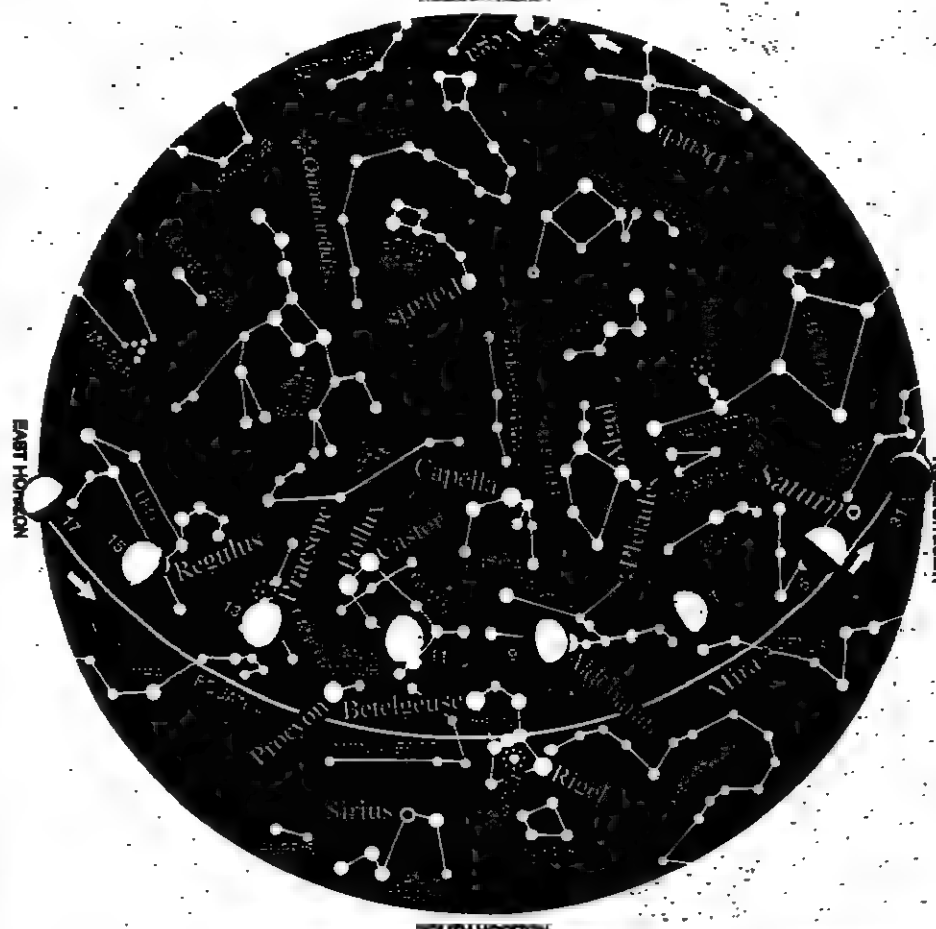
The Moon: first quarter 5d 14h, full Moon 12d 17h, last quarter 20d 20h, new Moon 28d 06h.

The Earth reaches perihelion, its closest to the Sun, on 4d 21h (147 million km). Sunset on the 1st is at 16h 00m and on the 31st at 16h 45m while sunrise is at 08h 08m and 07h 00m on the same dates. Astronomical twilight ends at 18h 05m and 18h 45m early and late in the month and begins again at 06h 05m and 05h 45m.

Algol, the eclipsing variable star in Perseus, fades from 2.1 to 3.4 magnitude every 69 hours taking about five hours to fade and another five hours

The night sky in January

NOZOMI KILBON



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h (11 pm) at the beginning, 23h (10 pm) in the middle, and 23h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich.

from the Sun we see it depends on the Earth's position as well as that of Mercury. Venus's orbit is almost circular so every greatest elongation is about the same, 46-47 degrees. There are several other factors that make different apparitions more or less favourable.

Mercury takes 116 days from superior conjunction to superior conjunction, when the Earth, the Sun and Mercury line up in that order. In that time there will be one morning and one evening apparition, or in a whole year between six and seven complete apparitions.

In 1998 there will be four morning and three evening apparitions. The opportunity for seeing these from the British Isles with the naked eye can be roughly graded. In the morning (January, good), April-May (unobservable), August-September (fair) and December (very good). In the evening, March (very good), June-July (good), October-November (unobservable). One's latitude, depending on season, affects visibility. An unobstructed view of the horizon, and a clear transparent sky are needed. As there will

be bright twilight by the time Mercury becomes visible, a dark site is not necessary, though it helps not to have bright lights shining in one's eyes. Mercury can be surprisingly bright, as bright as Sirius, but the absorption of the atmosphere near the horizon dims it and any extra haze or cloud can hide it completely.

The sky is often very clear after frost, rain, snow or strong winds, and often much less so in settled, calm weather. From the tropics, especially in clear desert and mountain regions, seeing Mercury at most apparitions has never been a problem.

□ The Times Night Sky 1998 booklet contains monthly charts and notes on the year's events and important developments in astronomy and spaceflight. Published by Times Books, ISBN 07230 0993 7. Price £3.99 from bookshops or by post (add £1.00 p.p.) from Dept 941N, HarperCollins Publishers, Westerhill Road, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow G64 2QT, or 24-hour telephone ordering service 0181 307 4052 quoting Dept 941N.

Forthcoming
marriages

Mr M.W. Adams and Miss E.C. Moody. The engagement is announced between Mark William Adams, of Longwick, Buckinghamshire, and Erica Clare, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Rodney Moody, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

Mr P.D. Andrews and Miss J.C. Rice. The engagement is announced between Philip, only son of Mr and Mrs David Andrews, of Alvechurch, Worcestershire, and Joanna Charlotte, eldest daughter of Mr Nigel Rice, of London, and Mrs Linda Cumming, of Richmond, Surrey.

Mr J.C. Bannerman and Miss A.J.P. Kerr. The engagement is announced between James, second son of Mr and Mrs Henry Campbell Bannerman, of Tunbridge Wells, and Alison, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Kerr, of Claydon, Leicestershire.

Mr P.D. Fitzgerald and Miss C.S. Haines. The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mr and Mrs Michael Fitzgerald, and Camilla, younger daughter of Mr Russell Hanson and Mrs John Prescott.

Mr N.D. Greaves and Miss L.T. Vessey. The engagement is announced between Nathaniel, son of Dr George and Mrs Margaret Greaves, of Hong Kong, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Vessey, of Eton College.

Mr S.C.M. Humphrey and Miss S.J. Wolfe-Murray. The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr and Mrs Marcus Humphrey, of Dimet, Aberdeenshire, and Sarah, youngest daughter of Mr Michael Wolfe-Murray and Mrs Jacqueline Wolfe-Murray.

Mr D.P.B. Maile and Miss S.M. Lane Fox. The engagement is announced between Donald, younger son of Mr Donald Maile and the late Mrs Dorothy Maile, of Norwich, Norfolk, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Lane Fox, of Causton, Oxfordshire.

Mr C.J. Mann and Miss S.M. Barnedough. The engagement is announced between Charlie, elder son of the late Major A.J. Mann and Mrs E.E.F. Mann, of Northumberland, and Susanah, only daughter of Mrs Thomas Barnedough, of Sydling St Nicholas, Dorset.

Mr J.C. Higgs and Miss S. Hollowood. The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs John Higgs, of Headington, Oxford, and Susan, only daughter of Dr and Mrs John Hollowood, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

Mr O.J. Middleton and Miss S.A. Hayes. The engagement is announced between Orian John, elder son of Mr and Mrs Stuart Middleton, of Goudhurst, Kent, and Sally Anne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Hayes, of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

Mr T.D.D. Phillips and Miss S.P. Nesbitt. The engagement is announced between Dalton, son of Mr and Mrs T.D. Phillips, of Ballinacorney, Glenageary, Co. Wicklow, Ireland, and Penny, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.R. Nesbitt, of 33 Waterpark Road, Dublin 4, Ireland.

Mr R. Roy and Miss L.J. Easthara. The engagement is announced between Robin, son of Dr and Mrs P.K. Roy, of Upper Latham, Suffolk, and Lucy, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs A.F. Easthara, of Ashford, Surrey.

Mr R.E. Swadlow and Miss R.J.E. Jefferys. The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr Richard Southall, of Leckhamstead, and the late Mrs Jane Southall, and Rachel, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs George Jefferys, of Newcastle, Redlynch.

Dr R.D. Vasey and Miss R.J. Bewick. The engagement is announced between Roger David, only son of Mr David Vasey, of Chichester, West Sussex, and Mrs Margaret Vasey, of Swaby, Lincolnshire, and Rebecca Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robbie Bewick, of Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Mr B.W.J. Wright and Miss C.M. Prichett. The engagement is announced between Benedict, younger son of Mr Mark Wright, of Powys, and Mrs Caroline Wright, of Shropshire, and Mrs Robbie Bewick, of Bradford, West Yorkshire.

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Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jacques Carder, navigator, St Malo, Brittany, 1491; Hermann Boerhaave, physician, Voorhout, near Leiden, 1668; Charles Edward Stuart, (Bonnie Prince Charlie), Rome, 1720; Charles Cornwallis, 1st Marquess Cornwallis, soldier and statesman, London, 1738; Giovanni Rosagni, poet, San Mauro di Romagna, 1855; Henri Matisse, painter, Le Cateau, France, 1869; George C. Marshall, general, statesman, formulated Marshall Aid, Nobel Peace laureate 1953, Uniontown, Pennsylvania, 1880.

DEATHS: Giovanni Borelli, mathematician and astronomer, Rome, 1679; Sir Dudley North, financier, London, 1691; John Flamsteed, 1st Astronomer Royal 1675-1719, London, 1719; Gustave Courbet, painter, La Tour de Peilz, Switzerland, 1877; Miguel de Unamuno, philosopher and poet, Salamanca, Spain, 1936; Sir Frank Benson, actor-manager, London, 1939; Sir Malcolm Campbell, land and water

PERSONAL COLUMN

speed record-breaker, Reigate, Surrey, 1948.
Ellis Island, New York, was opened as an immigration depot, 1890.
The chimneys of Big Ben were broadcast by the BBC for the first time, 1935.
The farthing ceased to be legal tender in Britain at midnight, 1960.

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BMDs: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

May your serving acts appear to your servants, and your glory to their children, and your favour to the Lord our God be as all that we do, establish it firmly. Psalm 90: 14-17.

BIRTHS

AGRESTI - On December 21st to Claire and Steven, a son, Alexander James.

BEHAN - On 24th December at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Anne (née Collings) and Paddy, a son, Thomas Patrick.

BROUGHTON - On 26th December 1997 to Debbie and Richard, a daughter, Rebecca Louise, a sister to Emily.

BURKE - On December 23rd 1997 to Debbie and Richard, a daughter, Rebecca Louise, a sister to Emily.

CARMECH - On December 23rd to Elizabeth and William, a son, George Frederick David, a brother to Thomas.

CHAMBERLAIN - On December 22nd to John (née Piddock) and Dignity, a son, William David.

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DEATHS

BLACK - On 29th December in Woodlands, Bedfordshire, a son, Alexander James.

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OBITUARIES

SIR JOHN MEGAW

Sir John Megaw, PC, CBE, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 1909-80, died on December 27 aged 88. He was born in Dublin on September 16, 1909.

Sir John Megaw had an unusual background for a judge, first of the Queen's Bench Division and then in the Court of Appeal. Born when the whole of Ireland was still part of the United Kingdom, he spent his early childhood years in Dublin, where his father practised in the Four Courts. But after the creation of the Irish Free State, which his father always regarded with bitter resentment and as a betrayal of the interests of Protestant Ireland, the family moved to Belfast. Here his father practised exclusively in the Northern Ireland courts until he became the Province's Chancery judge. Megaw, therefore, grew up mainly in Belfast, as one of a large family of outstanding ability in a staunchly and somewhat rigid Ulster Presbyterian household. This upbringing left its mark on him for life.

Much was expected of the children. It is said that when one of John's sisters took only a second-class degree and a friend rang up to congratulate her, their father answered the telephone and curtly informed the caller that a second was "not a matter for congratulation in this family".

He could have had no such qualms about his second son, whose early promise showed at the Royal Academical School in Belfast. Not without misgivings on the part of his father, he was allowed to attempt a classical scholarship at Cambridge. St John's College at once elected him to an open scholarship in classics. Having gained a first class in Part I of the Classical Tripos (he remained an outstanding classical scholar throughout his life), he switched to law, where he gained two further firsts, one in Part II of the Law Tripos and the other, immediately afterwards, in the postgraduate degree of LL.B. He then went to Harvard Law School on a Choate Fellowship. Meanwhile he had joined Gray's Inn and was called to the Bar in 1934, having gained the Certificate of Honour in the Bar Finals in 1933.

This brilliant display of academic ability did not exhaust his energies. He had always been a fine rugby player, both at school and at Cambridge, though he did not gain a Blue. Twice he played for Ireland, so delaying his call to the Bar for a term, since Call Day in the autumn of 1933 coincided with an international match

in Ireland. He was an active member of the Richmond Football Club, becoming captain, and — much later — its president. He retained a lifelong interest in the game, and at one time also often acted as a referee. His speeches at the dinner of that club gave the lie to those who thought of him as dour and without humour.

This unusual combination of abilities foretold a distinguished career at the Bar. In 1934 he became a pupil of Mr (later Sir Henry) Willink at 3 Essex Court, then a comparatively small set of commercial chambers but subsequently a veritable judicial nursery. He remained in those chambers, of which W. L. McNair (later Mr Justice McNair) was jointly the head with Willink. Megaw's outstanding ability soon attracted attention, especially after Willink took silk in 1935.

Through devilling for Willink, he came to the notice of the Solicitor to the India Office, who was responsible for much Indian Government work in the Privy Council. There Megaw became regularly employed. He also had a small junior brief in Willink in the Chrysler case, instructed by Slaughter and May, who were quick to appreciate his outstanding abilities.

Although work for young men was then far from plentiful in the specialist field of commercial law, he soon made his mark, and but for the war would rapidly have outstripped his contemporaries. But he felt strongly about the Munich Agreement of 1938, as he did about many things. That same year he married most happily and also joined the Territorial Army. He was called up as a gunner shortly before the outbreak of war in 1939, when his wife was expecting their first child. He served throughout the war with distinction, first on active service during the bombing of London in 1940 and 1941, and then as a full colonel in an important staff job in Washington. Once again his abilities were recognised, and he was awarded the US Legion of Merit.

He was determined to return to the Bar as soon as possible. With characteristic courage and confidence, for he now had three children and little in the way of financial resources, he bought a large house in Chelsea in which he and his wife lived contentedly for years and more. He regained his practice and added greatly to it. He was a superb lawyer, but advocacy did not come easily to him and his Ulster reserve and occasional sharp



temper made some solicitors regard him with caution and even fear.

Yet to those who saw him daily he was a charming and delightful companion, with a ready wit and a happy turn of phrase, always concerned to help. The subsequent

successes of many of his pupils, and of theirs in turn, speaks much of the training that he gave, passing on what he had received as a pupil and much more besides.

He took silk in 1953, and the following

year was also given silk in Northern Ireland, a compliment to one who had never sought to practise there. He was now always in work of the highest quality, at his best in appellate courts, arguing difficult questions of law often with an international flavour. He was less at ease in the ordinary witness action, the average barrister's bread and butter.

He became Recorder of Middlesbrough in 1957, and in 1958, when still under 50, Gray's Inn elected him as a Bencher. In 1961 Megaw was one of an exceptionally large number of judicial appointments made by Lord Chancellor Kilmer in a list which included the future Lords Widgery and Scarman. In accordance with custom he was knighted on his appointment to the High Court Bench. Almost at once he became President of the Restrictive Practices Court, where at the time there was much work. But he resigned the appointment in 1968 on what he saw as a matter of principle, the right of the Government of the day to take legislative power to overrule decisions of that court.

Although a first-class lawyer, Megaw was never wholly at ease as a judge. His reserve and sharpness of temper were taken for aloofness, and his severity of manner and occasional acerbity belied the charm which his friends knew he possessed but which he seemed sometimes almost deliberately determined to conceal. He received promotion to the Court of Appeal in 1969 and was made a Privy Counsellor. His friends hoped that he would find the work there more agreeable, as he did. But when his turn came to preside — he was the senior Lord Justice during his last years on the appellate Bench — his was never an easy court in which to appear. A submission that he did not like was not quietly rejected with a smile, and a refusal by counsel to accept from him the difficulties that might lie ahead in his argument too often led to a fierce contest of wits between Bench and Bar.

He was immensely hard-working, but this was not necessarily an advantage. The extempore judgment, essential in the Court of Appeal if the judges are not to be overwhelmed, did not come easily to him. Night after night, and over weekends, he would labour preparing notes for judgments, and he found the criminal work especially burdensome and, indeed, distasteful. (He had, however, been the last judge ever to put on the black cap at the Old Bailey.)

He also felt a growing sense of dissatisfaction with the work which was allocated to his court, in particular trivial county court appeals and the like, which did not present up to his ability and experience. When in 1980 it became apparent that promotion to the House of Lords would not be forthcoming, he resigned, very quietly, leaving the Law Courts in the Strand for the last time at the end of July 1980, with most of his colleagues unaware of his going.

The relief of retirement was great and obvious. But he was not left in peace for long. He sat from time to time as a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and as an arbitrator in maritime cases, and then in 1981 he was invited by Margaret Thatcher's Government, which was seeking to end a damaging Civil Service strike, to chair a committee considering the whole question of Civil Service remuneration. He accepted only out of a strong sense of duty.

No picture of Megaw would be complete without reference to his work for Gray's Inn, to which he was devoted. He was Treasurer in 1976 but had been one of its most active members long before — always zealously defending its interests. The traditional independence of the Inns of Court, and their reluctance to co-operate with one another and with the Bar, led to the appointment in the early 1970s of a committee over which Lord Pearce presided. Its recommendations for the reconstitution of the Senate of the Four Inns of Court and the Bar into its present form, with the consequent diminution in the independence of the Inns, were anathema to Megaw, who bitterly opposed them. He was a man of strong principles upon many matters who regarded all compromise upon what he saw as questions of principle as akin to treachery. This attitude, which partly derived from his Ulster upbringing, sometimes led to a failure by those who did not know him well to appreciate his true worth.

He was an honorary Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, and an honorary LL.D. of Queen's University, Belfast. He received the Territorial Decoration, and in 1956 was appointed CBE for public services in connection with work for Northern Ireland and in the field of national insurance and similar problems.

In 1938 he married Eleanor Grace Chapman. She survives him, together with two daughters and a son.

PROFESSOR DAVID SCHRAMM



David Schramm, astrophysicist, died on December 19 aged 52, when his light aircraft crashed outside Denver, Colorado. He was born in St Louis, Missouri, on October 25, 1945.

A LEADING authority on the birth of the Universe, David Schramm made his greatest mark in weaving into cosmology the latest work on subatomic particles, and in showing that the Universe as a whole is dominated by dark matter — material that we cannot see. He was a hugely energetic figure who had been a champion Greco-Roman wrestler as a young man, and had established his group at the University of Chicago into one of the best in the world.

David Norman Schramm

studied at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and at California Institute of Technology, where his mentor was William Fowler. From there he moved to the University of Texas at Austin, and then to Chicago in 1974. He became vice-president for research at the university in 1995.

His career coincided with a flowering of astrophysics and cosmology, fuelled by growing evidence of the truth of the Big Bang theory. Schramm was very influential in bringing together nuclear physics, particle physics and astrophysics to explain the behaviour of the early Universe.

He was not afraid of making bold predictions. Together with Jim Gunn and Gary Steigman, he used knowledge of the amount of helium in the Universe to predict how many

families of elementary particles there were. Physicists came to mock, but stayed to admire. The prediction turned out to be true, one of the first times that cosmology had been able to anticipate the particle accelerators.

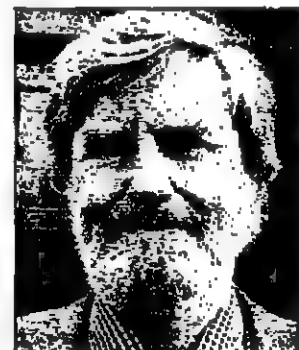
Schramm was a big man, with a quiet, persistent way of advancing his arguments, and he was also ambitious. At meetings he would rise like a mountain from the sea to offer sharp criticisms of ideas that he felt needed slapping down. At Chicago he managed to expand his department by a variety of stratagems. Once he wheedled a new faculty position by claiming that he could attract a Nobel laureate. When the star failed to turn up, he filled the post anyway.

He failed to capture the Science Centre for the Hubble space telescope, but as a close friend of the particle physicist Leon Lederman, with whom he went climbing, he arranged for cosmologists to be attached to Fermilab, the accelerator in Batavia, Illinois. He worked there himself for two years, meeting and later marrying Lederman's assistant, Judy Ward.

Schramm was a finalist in the 1968 US Olympic trials in Greco-Roman wrestling, and later wrestled for fun with members of the Chicago Bears football team. When his knees complained, he took up cycling instead, thinking little of a ride from his home in Aspen up to Independence Pass, 20 miles away and 4,500ft higher. On a trip to Germany he bought a red Porsche, and fitted it with the numberplate BIG BANG. He also took up flying, in a single-engine Cessna — incorporated as Big Bang Aviation so he could rent it out for charter.

He died when his aircraft crashed on a solo flight from Chicago to Aspen. He leaves his wife Judy and two sons.

IVOR CLEMITSON



Ivor Clemitson, Labour MP for Luton East, 1974-79, died in France from a heart attack on December 24 aged 66. He was born on December 8, 1931.

PERHAPS the only former Anglican clergyman to have sat in the Commons — though there was a case of a Church of Ireland person who had to have an Indemnity Bill passed on his behalf after illegally taking his seat in the wake of the 1950 general election — Ivor Clemitson was very much in the 1960s' mould of the worker priest. To become a Labour candidate appeared to him a legitimate extension of his sort of Christianity. It was with some reluctance, therefore, before standing at Luton in February 1974, that he agreed to renounce his Orders.

The law does not prohibit Anglican clergy from being nominated as parliamentary candidates but, like peers and bishops, they are disqualified from sitting in the Commons. Clemitson would almost certainly have welcomed the chance to challenge the House of Commons (Clergy Disqualification) Act of 1801 but he was eventually prevailed upon by his Bishop — Robert Runcie, then of St Albans — to accept that the practice of partisan politics was incompatible with the reconciling role of a Christian minister.

By the time he was elected — he gained Luton East, which he won twice, initially by only 1,425 votes — he had thus ceased to be an Anglican clergyman. He never, however, regarded himself as totally a layman and, after his narrow defeat at the 1979 general election, he anxiously sought ways and means by which he might be able to resume his own Anglican ministry. It was typical of

his fair-mindedness, however, that he finally concluded — if under some persuasion from the new Bishop of St Albans, John Taylor — that such a reversion to his previous status as a priest might be open to cynical misinterpretation.

Ivor Malcolm Clemitson was the son of a bricklayer. Originally going to the local state primary school, he won a place at Luton Grammar School and went on from there to the London School of Economics, where he took a second-class BSc Econ.

His period of training for the ministry at Bishop's College, Cheshunt, was immediately followed by a year spent working on the factory floor in order to get to know what it was like to do routine, repetitive work day-in, day-out.

He served his title for the priesthood at St Mary's, Bramhall, an industrial mission parish in the Sheffield diocese, then still very much under the inspiration of its pioneering pioneer Bishop, Leslie Hunter, and his diocesan missionary, Ted Wickham. After Hunter retired and Wickham had been made a suffragan bishop, the Sheffield Industrial Mission was wound down, and Clemitson made his way back to his home diocese of St Albans, where he served his second curacy at Christ Church, Luton, becoming two years later

the St Albans industrial chaplain. He served in that post — with a year's absence in Singapore, where he was director of its industrial mission — until 1971. In that year, as part of his induction, he took a job as research officer to the print union, the National Graphical Association, which conveniently had its headquarters in Bedford.

His five-year parliamentary career was not particularly distinguished, though he was appointed PPS to Albert Booth. It was a post from which Clemitson was forced to resign at the end of 1978 after voting against the Redistribution of Seats Bill, raising the level of Ulster representation at Westminster from 12 to 17. Otherwise, his only significant political act was a move to try to secure for all Labour MPs the right to vote in the meetings of the various groups within the parliamentary party. That possibly said more for his ecumenical spirit than for his awareness of the sharp divisions within Labour's ranks.

At first Clemitson was not wholly reconciled to his exile from Parliament, fighting the new seat of Luton South at the 1983 election, only to be badly defeated by Graham Bright (later PPS to John Major). After that, however, he appears to have abandoned all political ambition and was content to take up work — once his aspirations of returning to the priesthood had faded — provided by the Transport and General Workers' Union. Only last February, having reached retiring age, he moved with his wife to a farmhouse in France.

Ivor Clemitson married in 1961 Jan Meek, whom he met when she was a personnel officer and he was working as a priest in Sheffield. She survives him, together with a son and a daughter.

DEATHS

SMITH - Robert W. CBE, on 27th December 1997, died at 82 years of age. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1974 to 1983. He was born in 1915. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1974 to 1983. He was born in 1915.

STEWART - William, on 27th December 1997, died at 82 years of age. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1974 to 1983. He was born in 1915. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1974 to 1983. He was born in 1915.

TAYLOR - Samuel, on 27th December 1997, died at 82 years of age. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1974 to 1983. He was born in 1915. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1974 to 1983. He was born in 1915.

WILLIAMS - John, on 27th December 1997, died at 82 years of age. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1974 to 1983. He was born in 1915. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1974 to 1983. He was born in 1915.

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FLATSHARE - A beautiful flat, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 1 dining room, 1 kitchen, 1 porch, 1 garage, 1 shed, 1 outbuilding, 1 fence, 1 gate, 1 path, 1 drive, 1 lawn, 1 garden, 1 park, 1 forest, 1 mountain, 1 river, 1 lake, 1 sea, 1 ocean, 1 planet, 1 universe, 1 everything.

FLATSHARE - A beautiful flat, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 1 dining room, 1 kitchen, 1 porch, 1 garage, 1 shed, 1 outbuilding, 1 fence, 1 gate, 1 path, 1 drive, 1 lawn, 1 garden, 1 park, 1 forest, 1 mountain, 1 river, 1 lake, 1 sea, 1 ocean, 1 planet, 1 universe, 1 everything.

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JETLINE

FLATSHARE - A beautiful flat, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 1 dining room, 1 kitchen, 1 porch, 1 garage, 1 shed, 1 outbuilding, 1 fence, 1 gate, 1 path, 1 drive, 1 lawn, 1 garden, 1 park, 1 forest, 1 mountain, 1 river, 1 lake, 1 sea, 1 ocean, 1 planet, 1 universe, 1 everything.

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JETWORLD

FLATSHARE - A beautiful flat, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 1 dining room, 1 kitchen, 1 porch, 1 garage, 1 shed, 1 outbuilding, 1 fence, 1 gate, 1 path, 1 drive, 1 lawn, 1 garden, 1 park, 1 forest, 1 mountain, 1 river, 1 lake, 1 sea, 1 ocean, 1 planet, 1 universe, 1 everything.

JETWORLD

FLATSHARE - A beautiful flat, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 1 dining room, 1 kitchen, 1 porch, 1 garage, 1 shed, 1 outbuilding, 1 fence, 1 gate, 1 path, 1 drive, 1 lawn, 1 garden, 1 park, 1 forest, 1 mountain, 1 river, 1 lake, 1 sea, 1 ocean, 1 planet, 1 universe, 1 everything.

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ON THIS DAY

December 31, 1991. The burning of a women's prayer book by four young clergymen in a Cambridge theological college.

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ON THIS DAY

December 31, 1991. The burning of a women's prayer book by four young clergymen in a Cambridge theological college.

NEWS

New year honours for teachers

A headteacher has been knighted and another has become a dame in a New Year's Honours list that focuses strongly on education. The list also has its usual clutch of awards for celebrities, sporting stars and the arts.

Elton John is one of many who played a part in the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, to be honoured. He is knighted. The officer who organised the coffin party and the hearse driver also receive awards. Pages 1, 8, 9, 23 and 44

Funeral brings town to a standstill

Portadown came to a halt for the funeral of Billy Wright. His Loyalist Volunteer Force terrorist group had "requested" businesses to close as a mark of respect and by midday all shops were shut and the streets deserted. "What choice do we have?" one shopkeeper said. Pages 1, 8, 9, 23 and 44

Some like it hot

This year has been the third warmest for three centuries; only a cold January prevented it taking the title from 1990. Page 1

Waiting game

Demand for people to serve at parties on December 31, 1997 is so far outstripping supply that waiters are commanding £1,000 for the night. Page 1

Demolition job

The architect who designed the British Library has blamed the abuse heaped on his building by the Prince of Wales and Gerald Kaufman for destroying his practice. Page 2

Doing 'bird'

A businessman was held in police cells for three hours accused of harassing a neighbour's pigeons by hanging a plastic owl in his garden and singing *Come Fly With Me*. Page 3

Modern parable

A bishop's son has written a 20th century version of the medieval mystery plays where Jesus is a beggar, St Peter a foul-mouthed mugger and St Matthew a commodities broker. Page 3

Tunnel vision

A couple are exploring a network of tunnels under their Somerset country house after being put on the trail by an old man's memories of being sent down one of them as a servant boy. Page 4

Garden furniture in classic style

Christopher Cattle has designed the ultimate range of self-assembly furniture: reviving techniques used by ancient Greeks and Egyptians he has planted saplings that he expects to grow into tables and chairs. "You don't need screws, nails or glue," he says. "All you need is a seed. Then you sit back for four years for a stool and six years for a chair." Page 6

Memorial garden

A £10 million garden set in 16 acres outside Kensington Palace has emerged as the most likely monument to Diana, Princess of Wales. Page 6

Inspired guess

A retired physicist believes that he has discovered the identity of the man who inspired Shakespeare's sonnets by unravelling the complex dedication in the first printed edition. Page 7

Luxor shunned

Abed el-Naser no longer tries to entice people into his floating pyramid museum near Luxor. "There is no one coming. They are all frightened. Most of us will be ruined," he said. Page 12

Poll challenge

Kenya faced the prospect of renewed unrest as President Moi's Government and the opposition complained that the general election was rigged. Page 13

Siege killing

Prisoners holding 600 hostages in a maximum security jail in Brazil are reported to have murdered a fellow convict and thrown his body out of a window. Page 14

Tiger economy

Millions of Japanese are praying for wealth and prosperity in the new year — but many fear the national economic fortunes will get worse rather than better in the Year of the Tiger. Page 15



On the mend: a puffin prepares to return to life in the wild after having oil cleaned from its feathers by the RSPCA at Taunton

Fees record: City advisers reaped

£1.3 billion in fees from takeovers this year as a wave of consolidation swept over the power, drinks and financial industries. Page 23

New number: A former president of

Trinity College, Cambridge, who gave up accountancy to manage rock bands, brings his business to the stock market. Page 23

Economic forecast: The economy

will need to slow down in the New Year in order to ensure steady growth, the Governor of the Bank of England said. Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 Index rose

19.9 points to close at 5152.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 105.6 to 104.8 after a fall from \$1.6746 to \$1.6566 and from DM2.9883 to DM2.9673. Page 26

Football: The England striker Alan

Shearer has made a remarkable recovery from the ankle injury that threatened his career and is so far ahead of schedule that he might be fit to play for Newcastle United within a month. Page 44

Rugby union: Bath defeated Northampton

26-3 at the Recreation Ground, bringing to an end a run of three victories by the visiting side. Page 44

Athletics: Head-to-head competitions

will be outlawed when the International Amateur Athletic Federation bans races with fewer than three runners. Page 44

Cricket: A maiden Test century by

Jacques Kallis enabled South Africa to hold on for a draw against Australia in Melbourne. Page 38

Millennium escape: She is tipped for

an Oscar nomination for *Mrs Brown*, and is back in the latest Bond movie, but Judi Dench's first love is still the stage. Page 32

Cube dude: Not content with being

an Olympic gymnast, Paul Bowler has launched a second career with the Cirque du Soleil. Page 32

Rising star: Jason Brooker's huge

photorealist portraits have won him a prize and a one-man London show. The next stage, he says, is to paint pictures as big as a cinema screen. Page 32

Off stage: There will be wide-

spread confusion, fudge, semantic fiddling, compromise, frustration and expense — Benedict Nightingale predicts a grim year for theatre. Page 33

TOMORROW
IN THE TIMES

FILMS
"A brazen blockbuster with astonishing effects" — Geoff Brown gets the *Starship Troopers* bug

BOOKS
Malcolm Bradbury reviews Don De Lillo's latest, Roger Scruton looks back

Making their mark: Most pretentious

film? *The English Patient*. Ugliest bloke? Chris Evans, National trauma? The death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Bad sportsman? Michael Schumacher (no contest). Bill Frost takes a not entirely serious look at the highs and lows of the year. Pages 16, 17

Computers reborn: The switch to

2000-compliant computers means that a lot of hardware appears to be redundant. But a Scottish charity is recycling it for use in the Third World. Pages 28, 29

Lease hope: Will proposed re-

forms make it easier for tenants to buy the lease on their properties? Amanda Loose reports. Page 35

On the record: The Land Registry

is hoping to restore the price paid for a property to the details on its register of properties. Page 35

The battle of the unemployed brings us back to an essential question. Despite increasing wealth and massive redistribution mechanisms, our economy is incapable of eliminating poverty. Perhaps it is time to reconsider our redistribution system. A fine challenge for the Government if it does not want to face the revolt of society's sacrificial victims. — *La Monda*

Preview: Jack Rosenthal continues his saga of the chalk-and-cheese families and their student offspring in *Cold Enough For Snow* (BBC, 9pm) Review: Matthew Bond on a fine evocation of national grief. Pages 42, 43

Mayhem and Moi

Even by the miserable standards that Kenyans have become accustomed to, this week's presidential, parliamentary and local government elections have been a disgrace. Page 19

Steady, Eddie

Mr George and his Monetary Policy Committee have taken the right decisions. The peak in interest rates should by now have been reached. The Bank can afford to sit back and watch its past actions take effect. Page 19

Staff of life

Man still does not live by bread alone. But, in spite of the priggish strictures of the nutritional bible, he will have an ever-increasing choice of his daily bread. Page 19

ALISTAIR HORNE

Where did all the flowers of 1968 go? Some became ageing hippies, or nurtured the politically correct in the universities. Page 18

PETER STOTHARD

If I had asked my father his list of passions this week, it would have been headed by the Farleigh Hospice in Chelmsford, whose power of love and peace-bringing should be celebrated in sky-written letters of gold. Page 18

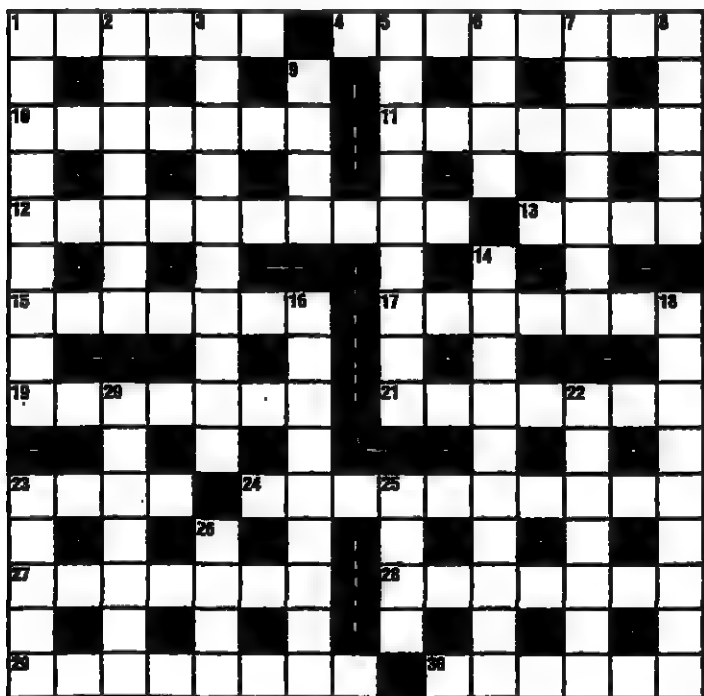
P. DELVES BROUGHTON

Freud had a point. In his roundabout way, he was saying new year celebrations are the pits. By the time 2000 comes Britain will be in a state of nervous breakdown, like a deeply insecure host grinning wildly and turning up the music. Page 18

Sir John Megaw, former Lord Justice of Appeal: David Schramm, anthropologist Ivo Clementson, former Labour MP. Page 21

Northern Ireland: Maze prison inquiry; Church's role in hunting debate; honours system; spirit of giving; doorstep ban; eating in France. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,676



- ACROSS**
- Copper getting animated in clergyman's office (6).
 - TV programme with host — walk out for it? (4,4).
 - Conclude a small number must finish up in hell? (7).
 - Occupation of the heartless burglar's female companion (7).
 - Job that depends on satisfying one's better (10).
 - A cast looking pale (4).
 - Minute for Jumbo, for example? (7).
 - Show hesitation entering museum gallery (7).
 - Is she game to be wed to Duke? Not half! (7).
 - Backed workers' organisation on one line, in print (7).
 - Honour the flag (4).
 - Getting on a new rugby team is hard. Without skill (10).
 - Country that's fine away from the coast? (7).
- DOWN**
- Herb loves embracing king's cruel daughter? (7).
 - A sort of clay-pit that's unusual (8).
 - Pelt leaders of 28 in public uproar (6).
 - Cut by management that's designed to keep a tight grip on paperwork (9).
 - Late for swimming, get back into the water (7).
 - Old romance, novel set in part of India (10).
 - Valentino miscast in unconventional work (9).
 - Top person whose position is determined by rank and file (4).
 - Makes a transmission, based on practical experience (5-2).
 - Sardonically listening to good-living Irishman (5).
 - Effective chess move in support of king (4).
 - Style of Mackintosh imported from France (5,7).
 - They inform everyone, with a service aimed all over the place (4,5).
 - Put something dropped by 20, a source of contention (9).
 - In East End of London raised, and excessively proud about it? (7).
 - A refusal to follow smart immigrant into US (7).
 - Fruit just as fresh for appetising starters (5).
 - Assumed to give approval (4).
 - Spanish master one of the boys sent up (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,675

DOLLOP CRESSMAN
R O A H E O I
S A N D E L A C A N N O T
T E L L E R P L A E
D O G T A I L T O S S U C
R I O C R E V I
I A C I D I S T I N
B O O R U T P A C T S
L E T I M P E R I A L H
L E T B N I I
L Y D I A N R E S O U R C E
O I L Q U E S K
W E E V I L N E E D I E S T
E N A T I O N E
D E T O N A T I O N S E N A T O R

Times Two Crossword, page 44

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Weather: Highest day temps: Aylesbury, Highgate

Guernsey, 15C (59F); Lowest day max: Egham, 10C (50F); Highest rainfall: Durdley, 0.1 in; 0.1 in; Highest sunshine: Seaview, Dorset, 4.4 hr

General: Eastern England will start

mid, cloudy and wet but it will soon become brighter and colder with sun and a few showers. The rest of England and Wales will have a bright and blustery day with sunny spells and showers of rain, hail and sleet — the showers most frequent in the west. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cold and windy with sunny intervals and sudden squally showers. Many of the showers will be of hail and sleet with significant snowfall over the western mountains. In the Irish Republic, wet and windy with heavy rain.

Tonight, many areas will be cold with clear spells and coastal showers. Windy everywhere, particularly in the west, where it will cloud over later with rain.

London, SE, E, NE England, E Anglia, E Midlands: Overnight rain will clear to give sunny spells and the odd shower. Cold in the fresh southwesterly wind. Max 9C (48F).

Cent S, SW England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, S Wales: Sunny spells and wintry showers. Cold in the fresh southwesterly wind. Max 9C (48F).

N Wales, NW, Cent N England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Some sunny spells, but feeling cold with blustery showers, wintry over the mountains. Fresh southwesterly wind. Max 7C (45F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Inverclyde, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Overnight rain in the east clearing to give sunny spells and showers, the showers wintry over the hills. Feeling cold in the fresh southwesterly wind. Max 7C (45F).

SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, East Highlands, Argyll: Heavy, wintry showers with snow over the highest ground and a glimpse of the sun. Cold in the strong southwesterly wind. Max 6C (43F).

N Ireland: Limited sunny spells; wintry showers including snow over hills. Cold in the fresh southwesterly wind. Max 6C (43F).

Republic of Ireland: Wet and windy. Some heavy rain, especially early and late. Strong or gale force southerly winds. Max 12C (54F).

Outlook: New Year's Day will be wet and windy with gales in exposed western areas, but it will be mild. Friday will be brighter with sunny spells, showers and a chilly wind.

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Changes to chart below from noon: low N sensitive close to Ireland, rising slowly. Low R expected to move quickly east towards NW Scotland, deepening. High pressure persists over eastern Mediterranean



TODAY

	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	208	4.2	2.15	4.4	Leth	3.28	5.5	3.45	5.8
Abermouth	1807	18.5	8.28	13.4	London	2.34	7.3	2.59	7.8
Belfast	1153	3.6	1.05	1.4	London Bridge	10.24	10.2	10.24	10.24
Cardiff	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	London W	9.41	4.8	1.04	1.8
Doncaster	1842	5.9	7.04	5.3	Manchester	7.36	7.0	7.27	7.8
Edinburgh	1748	6.7	1.05	1.4	Nottingham	8.27	8.2	8.27	8.27
Glasgow	0.12	4.0	12.22	4.2	Oxford	8.28	5.6	5.46	5.8
Highland	6.13	6.4	6.35	6.1	Perth	8.28	5.6	5.46	5.8
Inverclyde	1.14	3.3	1.40	3.6	Reading	8.30	2.3	2.33	2.8
Leith	0.23	4.0	12.22	4.3	Sheffield	8.30	2.3	2.33	2.8
London	11.12	5.8	11.28	5.5	Southampton	11.34	4.7	12.01	5.8
London E	7.12	8.5	7.26	8.6	Swansea	7.39	8.5	7.39	8.5
London W	6.51	9.2	7.12	8.2	Warrington	8.24	4.1	12.48	5.8
Manchester	7.14	6.6	7.27	6.2	Widnes	8.24	4.1	12.48	5.8

© Crown copyright reserved. Heights in metres.

Sunrise: 8.02 am. Sunset: 4.01 pm. London 4.01 pm to 6.02 am. Edinburgh 3.45 pm to 6.46 am. Manchester 5.05 pm to 8.25 am. Perthshire 4.20 pm to 8.27 am.

First quarter January 5.

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Temperatures at midday local time on Monday X = not available

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THE TIMES

2

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BUSINESS

How Bill Gates went from demigod to 'wanted man'
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Why movies will never take this dame off the stage
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SPORT

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TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31 1997

Takeovers fuel fees record of £1.3bn for advisers

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CITY advisers reaped a record £1.3 billion in fees from UK takeovers in 1997 as a wave of consolidation swept the power, drinks and financial industries.

British investment banks held claim to the lion's share of the spoils in a boom year, which saw a total of 1,801 deals with a combined value of £64.1 billion, including 12 transactions with a price tag of £1 billion or higher.

Acquisitions Monthly, the specialist magazine, said that 1997 marked the third consecutive year of strong mergers and acquisitions activity in the UK, with the highest number of public bids since 1989.

However, the year fell just short of the 1995 all-time record.

Its analysis of both public and private deals during the year puts Lazard Brothers at the top of the league table of

Third place went to Schroders, dispelling the myth that British independent banks are unable to compete against the so-called bulge bracket banks, the big American houses, on billion-dollar deals.

Schroders notched up £12.3 billion in transactions, including the takeovers of East Midlands and London Electricity.

However, the US banks continued to tighten their grip on the UK mergers and acquisitions market. The big four—Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch and JP Morgan—all moved up the league table by offering advice on deals worth £26.7 billion. This was in part because their US clients made several acquisitions in the UK, most notably in the energy sector.

The league table also seems to lend weight to the controversial decision by Derek Wanless, NatWest's chief executive, to hive off part of its markets business in a two-way deal with Bankers Trust and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

NatWest Markets was ranked 16th in its home market. BZW, sold by Barclays to Credit Suisse First Boston for £100 million in October, fared better by taking tenth position, ahead of JP Morgan, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. It advised on 24 private and public bids with a value of £4.76 billion.

Philip Healey, editor of Acquisitions Monthly, said the £1.3 billion in fees reflected not only the large number of deals but also the complexity of the transactions that had pushed up the costs. He added that the figure was likely to be an underestimate because it included all legal, accounting and public relations fees.

"There is every sign that 1998 will be just as buoyant as 1997 in terms of merger and acquisition activity. In December alone, 18 public bids have been announced," he said. The spate of takeovers was part of a worldwide trend. Mr Healey added. Globally, 13,857 deals worth \$829 billion were completed, compared with 12,320 deals valued at £650 billion last year.

The tide of mergers and acquisitions is sure to boost the level of bonuses paid to City bankers in the new year. One firm of recruitment consultants has estimated that bankers may receive as much as £1 billion in bonuses.

Commentary, page 25

Two knights in a day for Pearson

By JON ASHWORTH

PEARSON, the media and entertainment group, has come up trumps in the New Year's Honours List, with Dennis Stevenson, chairman, and Frank Barlow, the former Pearson managing director, appointed knights.

Sir Dennis, 52, is knighted for services to business and the arts. He is chairman of Pearson and GPA, the Irish aircraft leasing company, and chairs the trustees of the Tate Gallery. Sir Frank, 67, is knighted for services to the newspaper industry. Former chief executive of the Financial Times Group, he began his career in Nigeria and the West Indies before running Westminster Press in the UK.

Brian Smith, non-executive chairman of Cable & Wireless

New Year Honours for captains of industry

and BAA, is knighted for services to industry and the community. He steps down as BAA chairman in July. Neville Simms, group chief executive and deputy chairman of Tarmac, is knighted for services to the construction industry. George Bull, joint chairman of Diageo, is knighted for services to the alcoholic drinks industry, while Diageo's external affairs director, Peter Lipscomb, is appointed CBE. John Carter, chief executive of Commercial

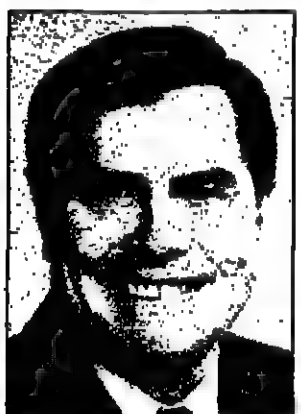
Union, is knighted for services to the insurance industry. He is chairman of the Association of British Insurers. Graham Hearn, chairman of Enterprise Oil, is knighted for services to the oil industry. Barrie Stephens, chairman of Siebe, is knighted for services to the engineering industry. In 35 years, he has taken the industrial controls and appliances group from a minnow to an engineering colossus. He retires in February.

Among those appointed CBE are Allan Bridgewater, chief executive of Norwich Union; Mark Baker, chairman of Magnox Electric; John Church, chairman of Church & Co. the shoes group; Kenneth Cudde, chief executive of Portman Building Society; Bernard Hart, town clerk and chamberlain at the Corporation of London; Michael Wates, chairman of Wates, the construction group; and Eileen Marshall, of Oligas.

Also appointed CBE are James Dyson, inventor of the bagless vacuum cleaner (for services to industrial design); William Banks, deputy chairman of Robert Fleming (medical education); and Tony Porro, chairman of Bass International Brewers and Bass Leisure (brewing industry). David Bland, director general of the Chartered Insurance Institute, is appointed OBE.



Neville Simms, Tarmac services to construction sector



Graham Hearn, Enterprise



Brian Smith, C&A and BAA



Barrie Stephens, Siebe



Dennis Stevenson, Pearson



John Carter, CU



Frank Barlow, ex-Pearson



George Bull, Diageo

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	5132.3 (+19.9)
Yield	3.16%
FTSE All share	2407.74 (+11.00)
Nikkei	15258.74 (+483.52)
New York	7969.84 (+77.23)
Dow Jones	962.58 (+9.63)
S&P Composite	962.58 (+9.63)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.00% (5.00%)
Long Bond	102.1% (102.1%)
Yield	5.98% (5.98%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	7.00% (7.00%)
Libor long	120.0% (120.0%)
STERLING	
New York	1.5848* (1.5705)
London	1.5848* (1.5705)
DM	2.9677 (2.9688)
FF	5.5291 (5.5340)
FF	5.4028 (5.4028)
Yen	214.82 (217.55)
£ Index	104.8 (105.6)
DOLLAR	
DM	1.7808* (1.7880)
FF	5.5949* (5.5985)
FF	1.4847* (1.4855)
Yen	130.19 (129.40)
£ Index	108.6 (108.7)
Tokyo close Yen	129.94
MORNING STAR	
Best 15-day (Jan)	\$16.80 (\$16.80)
GOLD	
London close	\$390.16 (\$391.85)

Pounding
The strength of the pound has marred business prospects for the new year, the CBI believes. Its view is echoed by the Institute of Export, which predicts that many companies will have to reduce exports in 1998.
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Chemical deal
Harrisons & Crosfield, the conglomerate, is to pay £280 million for an American manufacturer of additives for industrial coatings.
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Sanctuary set for reverse takeover

By CHRIS AVRES



Music man: Andrew Taylor orchestrated Sanctuary deal

A FORMER president of Trinity College, Cambridge, who gave up a career in accountancy to manage rock bands, has completed a deal to bring his business to the stock market.

Andrew Taylor, who founded the Sanctuary Group in 1976 with Rod Smallwood, also a Cambridge graduate, has orchestrated a £15 million reverse takeover of his entertainment conglomerate by Burlington, a shell company. The two men will both own 20 per cent stakes in the merged company, worth about £4.6 million each.

Sanctuary began life as a music management company, most famous for looking after

Iron Maiden, the rock band discovered by Mr Taylor in 1979. It now also owns Cloud 9, the television company, which has created 60 hours of programmes since 1995, including adaptations of Enid Blyton books. Sanctuary's sales for 1996 were £18 million with operating profits of £300,000.

One of its divisions, Sanctuary Music Productions (SMP), is listed separately on the Alternative Investment Market. The division, which is 60 per cent owned by Sanctuary, is worth about £7 million. SMP owns recording studios at Shepherd's Bush, West London, plus a licensing, pro-

duction and promotions business. It also owns stakes in several record labels, one of which has signed Huff and Herb, an up-and-coming dance act.

Burlington, whose shares were suspended at 22p when talks began, will buy Sanctuary through a 25p-per-share open offer to existing shareholders, raising £14.6 million.

Mr Taylor will become chief executive while Mr Smallwood becomes the director responsible for music management services. 3i, the venture capitalist, will hold a 10 per cent stake.

Tempus, page 26

New Investment Rates

EFFECTIVE THURSDAY 1ST JANUARY 1998.

DIRECT SAVINGS ACCOUNTS CURRENTLY ONLY AVAILABLE TO EXISTING BRISTOL & WEST INVESTORS

90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT - ANNUAL INTEREST			90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT - MONTHLY INTEREST		
BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA	BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA
£100,000+	7.50%	6.00%	£100,000+	7.25%	5.80%
£50,000+	7.20%	5.76%	£50,000+	6.97%	5.58%
£25,000+	6.95%	5.56%	£25,000+	6.74%	5.39%
£10,000+	6.90%	5.52%	£10,000+	6.69%	5.35%
£5,000+	6.10%	4.88%	£5,000+	5.94%	4.75%
INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT			HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT (NO LONGER AVAILABLE)		
BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA	BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA
£100,000+	6.80%	5.44%	£100,000+	4.80%	3.84%
£50,000+	6.75%	5.40%	£50,000+	4.75%	3.80%
£25,000+	6.70%	5.36%	£25,000+	4.70%	3.76%
£10,000+	6.65%	5.32%	£10,000+	4.65%	3.72%
£5,000+	6.00%	4.80%	£5,000+	4.00%	3.20%
TESSA (NO LONGER AVAILABLE)			EXTRA TESSA (FOLLOW UP TESSA)		
BALANCE	GROSS PA		BALANCE	GROSS PA	
£9,000+	7.45%		£9,000+	7.65%	
£5,000+	7.25%		£5,000+	7.50%	
£3,000+	7.25%		£3,000+	7.50%	

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Interest is credited or paid at periods in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the Account. *Gross rates of interest are variable and do not take account of deductions of income tax. †Net rates of interest are variable and do not take account of deductions of income tax. If you are eligible to receive your interest without deduction of tax, you should register an Inland Revenue Form R85. Interest rates shown as Net are purely illustrative and assume tax @ 20%. The actual net amount receivable by an investor who has not registered for gross interest will depend upon the rate of tax as required by legislation in force at the time interest is credited or paid out. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. For individuals whose income falls within the lower band, the tax deducted will match their liability. In the case of the lowest and they will have no more tax to pay on it, individuals who are liable at the higher rate of income tax of 40% will have to pay additional tax on the interest to cover the difference between the tax deducted and the higher rate tax due. Bristol & West plc is a member of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme and subscribes to The Banking Code, The Mortgage Code, and to the ABI Code of Practice. Copies of the Codes are available on request. Bristol & West plc, Registered in England No. 2124201. Registered Office: PO Box 27, Broad Quay, Bristol, BS1 9YK.



US consumer confidence rises to 28-year high

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

US CONSUMER confidence has unexpectedly leapt to a 28-year high, muffled bearish voices that predicted America was heading for a recession after almost seven years of fast growth.

The consumer confidence index rose from 128.1 to 134.5 in December, an increase of 5 per cent, according to a Conference Board report

published yesterday. In June 1969, the index had reached 137.9.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 30 points in morning trading on Wall Street. Consumer confidence is of vital importance for the US economy as it accounts for two thirds of the country's overall economic activity.

Lynn Franco, associate director of the Conference Board's consumer research centre, said: "The strength of the US economy, especially the labour

market, continues to lift consumers' spirits and bolster their expectations. Current readings are the highest this year, and continue to rise at historically strong levels. Consumers have high expectations for 1998." Two sub-indices also soared to new highs. The "future expectations" index this month rose from 108.9 to 116.4 and the "present situation" index rose from 156.8 to 161.7, another 28-year record.

Wall Street had expected consumer confi-

dence to fall. Analysts at Standard & Poor's said: "Although a strong case can be made for underlying fundamentals — ie, employment, income, mortgages rates, inflation — being at the strongest point of the year, we expect confidence to fall." Analysts were expecting a fall of up to 5 per cent.

For the coming months, economists are now predicting a minor slowdown rather than the onset of a recession.

Sterling's strength spoils prospects

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE strength of the pound has marred business prospects for the new year, according to the Confederation of British Industry. Its view is echoed by the Institute of Export which predicts that many firms will have to reduce exports in 1998 because the level of sterling is crippling profits.

Sir Colin Marshall, President of the CBI, today says: "A lower and more sustainable exchange rate would be the best present Britain's exporters could have going into 1998. Despite good news in many areas of the economy, the strength of sterling has had a dramatic effect on many firms trying to win overseas orders. In core export markets, like Germany and France, the price of sterling has risen dramatically in 18 months — up by over 25 per cent in the year-and-a-half to November against the mark and the franc. This has resulted in a

fall-off in export orders and a loss of confidence in future performance."

His new year message to CBI members was underlined by Ian Campbell, director-general of the Institute of Export, who said that companies would not be able to continue to maintain the low prices and margin squeezes that they had experienced this year. He said: "We are getting very concerned that interest rates are remaining high and therefore continuing to keep sterling high. The export community is far from bullish. We are already starting to see some companies relinquish market share and this will carry on next year unless the exchange rate falls."

Mr Campbell said prospects for exporters in 1998 had been further damaged by the collapse in South-East Asian markets. The region had been targeted by many exporters as a key opportunity for expansion.

Sir Colin said: "Exports form a vital part of the UK economy. A lower level for sterling with less volatility against other major competitors would have a positive effect on our performance as a whole and would build on the encouraging growth we have witnessed in the domestic market."

The CBI President also called for greater flexibility among European countries in labour market reform than their adherence to a European model. His call comes as the Government prepares key changes for union recognition in its *Fairness at Work* White Paper and as the UK is poised to take over the presidency of the European Union. The CBI and the Trades Union Congress have been sharply divided over how union recognition should be implemented.



Don Cruickshank says phone numbers can be kept if customers switch operator

Phone users get to keep their personal numbers

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

OFTEL, the telecommunications regulatory body, said yesterday it had agreed with all the leading UK telephone companies to provide number portability, allowing customers to keep their numbers when they change operators.

Until recently only BT was required to provide number portability. The condition will now be included in the licences of all telephone operators, including the cable companies.

The number portability applies not just to numbers

within a particular area, but also to freephone and local-rate call services.

Recently the four mobile telephone operators agreed to introduce number portability from the end of 1998.

Since number portability first became possible in June 1996 more than 150,000 numbers have been "ported" and the rate is currently around 5,000 a week.

Don Cruickshank, the telecommunications regulator, who retires on March 31, said yesterday: "Now customers

can move between any operator to ensure they are getting the best quality of service at the best price without the inconvenience of having to change the numbers."

Ofel also said yesterday it planned to hold its first public meeting in February to discuss its plans and targets for the next two years.

The meeting on February 10 in the Great Hall, King's College London, is designed to give both residential and business telephone users a say on Ofel's future strategy.

BT targets corporate customers with new discounts

By OUR MEDIA EDITOR

THE latest sign that competition in the market for international business calls is starting to bite came yesterday as BT announced a new discount scheme aimed at the corporate sector.

From January 1, BT is introducing a Key Countries scheme, allowing customers to nominate up to ten countries from a choice of 30 top destinations for UK business. They can then get a 15 per cent discount on either basic call charges or on top of existing discount schemes.

The new international discount scheme adds to the complexity of BT special offers. The telecommunications group said yesterday that if a business that makes many international calls uses Key Countries in conjunction with two other BT discount plans — BT Business Choices Level 2 and Key Numbers — then daytime calls to the US come down to 11.5p a minute and 13.5p a minute to France, Germany or The Netherlands.

A year ago 43 companies were licensed to compete in the international call market and BT is now facing competition from such international telecoms groups as AT&T and WorldCom of the US and Energis of the UK.

Energis, which specialises in the business market, suggested recently that provision of calls to the US cost it around 1.5p a minute and that it had plenty of scope to undercut the BT price. Analysts suggest, for example, that business calls to the US can be obtained for between 5p and 7p a minute.

Bill Cockburn, group managing director of BT, said yesterday that on any fair comparison BT was highly competitive on price.

AT&T says that it already provides a telephone service for 15 per cent of UK-based multinational companies.

The Key Countries scheme costs £7.50 a quarter for each nominated country — or £25 a quarter for a package of five countries.

Revenue from North Sea oil 50% off peak

REVENUES from North Sea oil have more than halved since the peak reached in 1985, according to the Royal Bank of Scotland. The Royal Bank's oil team reckon that daily revenue from North Sea oil averaged £30 million during the past year, compared with more than £68 million a day in February 1985.

Expressed in 1997 prices the value of 1985 production was £116 million a day. The bulk of the decline was accounted for by a real fall in the price of oil of almost 75 per cent — from almost £43 in 1985 to £11.29 in November. Output fell by only 7 per cent.

The Royal Bank noted that tax revenues had fallen from £12 billion in 1985 to the forecast of between £3 billion and £4 billion for 1997-98. Stephen Boyle, head of business economics at the Royal Bank of Scotland, commenting ahead of the Government's review of North Sea taxes, said that the value of tax revenues depended on external factors as well as on the nature of the fiscal regime. This meant that changes in average tax rates could easily be swamped by movements in prices.

Commentary, page 25. Energy trends, page 27

Toyota expands in US

TOYOTA MOTOR CORP is considering manufacturing luxury cars in the US as early as 2000. It may make a luxury sport-utility, introduced earlier this month in Japan as the Harrier. Toyota has been steadily increasing production in America, partly to ease criticism over Japan's huge trade surplus. It is building a \$700 million plant south of Princeton, Indiana, and already plans to produce about 100,000 T100 pickup trucks annually from autumn 1998. The plant will employ about 1,300 workers. Currently, Toyota makes its Lexus luxury cars and its sports-utility vehicles in Japan.

Granada completes sale

GRANADA, the UK hotels and leisure group, said yesterday that it had completed the sale of Société de Gestion de Restaurants-Bars sur les Autoroutes to a subsidiary of Autogrill International for £700 million (about £70 million). Terms of the disposal were announced earlier this month. Granada also announced the disposal of Forte France's stake in Corela to Sogerba for £120 million, lifting total proceeds from the disposal of interests in the French motorway service business to £820 million. Granada shares held at 935p yesterday.

Fewer French jobless

FRENCH unemployment fell in November for a third consecutive month, dropping by 9,000 or 0.3 per cent to 3,114,600. The jobless rate, based on International Labour Organisation criteria, dropped to 12.4 per cent, from 12.5 per cent, its first decline since July and the first time it has been below 12.5 per cent since September 1996. The drop will be welcome news to France's Socialist-led Government, which came to power in June promising to cut unemployment, but has so far recorded little significant progress.

Sakura reviews options

SAKURA BANK, a large Japanese commercial bank, is drafting a restructuring plan that it hopes to disclose by the end of January, but would not comment on suggestions that it may close down half of its 99 overseas branches. Among the new measures under study are concentrating more on the bank's strengths, such as individual loans, and cutting its assets, Sakura said. The bank will also decide what to do with its domestic and overseas networks. Standard & Poor's recently downgraded the bank's long-term credit ratings.

Losses at Monteagle

PROFITS at Monteagle SA, the Luxembourg-based southern Africa trader, fell to \$99,000 before tax from \$3,097 million in the year to September 30 on sales down to \$29.5 million from \$33 million. There was a loss per share of 8.43 cents, against earnings of 22.58 cents. The total dividend was unchanged at eight cents. Monteagle said gold mining activities by Falcon Mines Group, its associate, ran at a loss. It said the board had confidence for the year ahead, but the instability in Far Eastern markets tempered this enthusiasm.

Russian oil auction

RUSSIA will sell 48.68 per cent of Tyumen Oil Company, holding company for Nizhnevartovskneftegaz, in a special near-\$800 million cash auction from January 8 to February 13. Terms are expected to be the same as in the suspended November 20 auction, in which 760.03 million shares were offered at a starting price of 6,500 roubles (\$1.08) each. The Alfa-Group, the financial industrial company, bought 40 per cent of Tyumen at an auction in July and has said it intends to increase its stake to a controlling one.

Tullow Oil shares fall

TULLOW OIL shares fell 44p to 1374p after the oil exploration and production company said that the second well of a two-well programme had been completed in Pakistan and had produced gas at a non-commercial rate. The first well, in the onshore East Badin extension block B, tested gas at commercial rates from three zones and was suspended as a future gas production well. The second well, in the onshore East Badin extension block A, tested gas at non-commercial rates and has been plugged and abandoned.

Radiant Metal slips

RADIANT METAL FINISHING suffered a loss of £37,753 in the half year to August 31, reversing the previous profit of £14,114, on sales up from £468,362 to £549,281. A loss per share of 2.78p was recorded, against earnings previously of 1.03p. Once again there is no half-year dividend. The group carries out electroplating and deals in the development of residential property. Radiant Metal said that there has been no material change in the level of trading activity since the half-year end.

One million jobs lost in Indonesia

By GEORGE SIVELL

AN ESTIMATED one million workers lost their jobs this year because of Indonesia's economic crisis, an Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry official said.

The fallout from the currency crisis that has swept South-East Asia has arrested once-booming economic growth in Indonesia. The value of the rupiah has plummeted about 60 per cent this year, making it one of the world's worst-performing currencies.

The Chamber predicted in a report that economic growth in 1998 would decrease to between 3 and 4 per cent, compared with an estimated rate of 6.5 per cent in 1997.

Many businesses with big debts in foreign currencies face tough times despite a \$40 billion (£24 billion) economic rescue package put together by the International Monetary

Fund. Earlier this week, Radits Prawiro, a close adviser to President Suharto and a former Cabinet minister, called on businessmen unable to pay their debts to close down their businesses.

"We ought to close down unproductive businesses. I think it is the best way to prevent more disastrous effects to the economy."

The Indonesian Chamber's report said property, construction and banking had been the hardest hit sectors so far. Indonesia has an estimated workforce of 91 million.

Official figures show that only 16,961 workers have lost their jobs so far in the crisis and that the jobs of another 4,536 workers are under threat. Most of the laid-off workers were from factories in the footwear, garment and electronic sectors.

Blueprint ready for consolidation in financial sector

Malaysia backs bank mergers

By GEORGE SIVELL

MALAYSIA'S central bank said it will unveil a plan soon to encourage the country's financial companies to merge in a move to rejuvenate the once-booming banking industry in the face of a shrinking economy and curbs on loans.

A wave of banking consolidations has already been deemed necessary in the neighbouring Asian economies of Thailand and Indonesia. Analysts believe there will be banking failures in Malaysia, too, if the banks do not

merge. Bank Negara Malaysia, the central bank, has identified a small number of financial companies as parent or core companies for the merger plan.

The bank said: "We expect an announcement to be made very soon," defined as "by the first week of January" at the latest.

Malaysia's banks were notoriously reluctant to consolidate themselves during the economic boom years. The plan will name "what financial companies we think should merge," the bank said. "We

(Bank Negara) are giving the green light." The companies to be merged would be left to decide which firms they would negotiate with.

The central bank expects that there could be "five or six, or seven" financial companies as the merger core.

These would be Tier-1 companies that are bank-backed and would include Arab-Malaysian Finance, Hong Leong Finance, Maybank Finance and Public Finance. The bank added: "We are looking at others for possible umbrella" or core companies. Ma-

laysia has about 40 finance companies and the central bank has been urging financial firms and banks to consolidate in order to improve competitiveness in the face of globalisation.

Malaysia has seen gross domestic product growth of more than 8 per cent for the past decade, but expects growth to slow to between 4 and 5 per cent in 1998.

The Government announced curbs on loans for property and share lending this year and has ordered banks to slow loan growth,

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Merchant princes a class apart



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The Cassandras who have long predicted the demise of the British merchant bank would do well to study the league table of takeovers in 1997. Three of the top five slots go to independent UK-owned houses, giving the lie to the claim that our merchant banks are a spent force.

Few will be surprised by the pre-eminence of Lazard Brothers, which comfortably sits atop the league table. Since a critical decision more than ten years ago to shun equities trading and stick to corporate advice, Lazard has given the US banking houses a good run for their money.

A decade of solid relationship-building and minimum turnover in staff, coupled with a reputation of luck — the bulk of Lazard's clients this year have been the targets of agreed bids — has been sufficient to propel the bank to the top this year.

More surprising is the performance of Schroders, over whom many a foreign suitor is believed to have cast an envious eye. It ranks third behind SBC Warburg Dillon Read, after supervising some 37 transactions with a combined book value of £12.3 billion. NIM Rothschild, the third UK bank, takes fifth place, again by concentrating on corporate advice.

The league table would also appear to vindicate the decisions by Barclays and NatWest to hivel off their investment banks to foreign competitors. BZW, sold to Credit Suisse First Boston for a

mere £100 million, squeezes in at number ten, while NatWest Markets, divided among Bankers Trust and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell for a slightly more respectable price, has to be content with 16th place. Blue-blooded Hambros, now the property of Société Générale, is nowhere to be seen.

And while the American investment banks continue to climb the league table — Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley are ranked fourth and sixth consecutively — the German-owned houses Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson are losing ground. If 1998 proves to be as rich in mergers and acquisitions as this year, then it could be crunch time for the two banks.

Meanwhile, the middle ground looks increasingly crowded. Close Brothers may have marked this out as its territory, but the accountancy firms are mounting a strong challenge. Arthur Andersen has stolen into the top 15 for the first time after advising on no fewer than 64 deals, worth close to £3 billion. Targeting more modest-sized companies — Andersen's deals average out at just £46 million apiece — clearly

pays. As more accountancy firms merge, they will take an increasing interest in this market, and a bigger share of the business. The American's may have the global market sown up, but the British can still call the shots at home.

Days of the hostile bid fondly recalled

Long-serving City folk will fondly recall what used to be known as the hostile bid. For the benefit of younger readers, these were lively affairs indeed, where one company — dubbed the predator — launched an unsolicited offer for another, usually a competitor that had fallen on hard times. Besetted executives from one board, normally prim and proper, let their hair down for the best part of two months and hurled abuse and general derision at executives on the rival board.

These then responded by

invoking every known dirty trick in the book to repel the invasion. Advisers, with no expense spared, worked around the clock to produce documents and circulars running into thousands of pages of information to support their case, little of which was actually read by shareholders, whose vote ultimately decided the fate of the company.

And, finally, the bid ended. Mostly, the predator won and defeated executives moved on to their next job with a decent payoff to ease the pain of loss of office. A surprisingly large number of executives and advisers who had behaved in such a wretched fashion to one another subsequently ended up working together soon after the next takeover bid. And so on. It was so much fun.

Sadly, these days have long since gone. Yes, occasionally a board puts up a token resistance on day one of a takeover bid. By day five the terms have been

tweaked, jobs have been made safe and everybody is happy, so the bid is recommended, the fight is over before it properly began. Yesterday's mergers and acquisitions data from *Acquisitions Monthly* lists the top ten deals of 1997. Just one, the smallest, is hostile, the £1 billion offer for Allied Colloids.

Hostile bids attracted criticism, not least from the defeated boards. The charge was that such bids undermined the fabric of a business and encouraged short-termism. Management took its eye off the ball for too long and, in any case, the enlarged business rarely delivered the goods.

This was true but only up to a point. Hostile bids forced executives out of their glass houses to justify their corporate strategy and to put their past achievements into context. Shareholders suddenly had access to new information and were given a chance to influence the future

management of their company. Either that, or they could take the money and run.

Agreed takeovers have a cosiness about them that causes unease. Mergers are presented as done deals and too few questions are asked about the rationale for agreement. Assertions about future market trends go unchallenged. BT's proposed merger with MCI would have dramatically transformed the business, yet shareholders nodded it through without a second's thought.

Opposition to the Guinness/GrandMet merger, the biggest in the UK, was limited to one Frenchman with his own axe to grind. If Diageo ever fails, there will be no one there to say "I told you so".

Crumbs of comfort for Asian economies

The good news for Asia and, it must be said, there has not been much of that around recently, is that the price of oil has bombed out and is unlikely to recover in 1998.

That will dismay anyone working in the North Sea, which produces some of the world's

most expensive crude. But the reality is that Asia accounts for more than a quarter of the world's 76 million barrels per day of demand and is responsible for nearly 50 per cent of global growth in oil consumption over the past five years.

Asian economies are heavy importers of crude. Energy costs have already escalated because of the devaluation of Asian currencies against the US dollar and refinery profits have sunk. A rise in the dollar price of crude at this stage would precipitate the recession that is already almost inevitable across the region.

Refiners in Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Singapore are cutting back crude purchases. Yesterday, India, one of Asia's biggest oil importers, revised down its expectations of oil product purchases by 13 per cent.

What has really spooked the market is a pledge by Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest supplier, to raise output by 10 per cent from January. Other Opec members will follow suit although most were already breaking their formal quotas.

But the Saudi uplift in output poses a very real threat to oil analysts' target of an \$18 a barrel average price for 1998. Riyadh was betting that steadily rising global demand for oil would mean a winning combination of higher exports at a continued high price but this now looks unrealistic.



Bill Turcan, left, chief executive of Harrisons & Crosfield, displaying the new name with George Fairweather and Mike Parker yesterday

Harrisons & Crosfield pays £278m for US chemicals firm

By CARL MORTIMER

HARRISONS & Crosfield, the former conglomerate, is building its presence in the specialty chemicals sector with the purchase of Rheox, a US-based company that makes additives used in the paint and coatings industry. Harrisons, which is to be renamed Elementis, also announced a capital repayment to shareholders of £402 million, equal to 56p per share.

Harrisons is paying NL Industries \$465 million (about £278.44 million) for Rheox,

based in New Jersey. The company makes and sells additives that control the viscosity and flow characteristics of products such as industrial coatings. Jonathan Fry, Harrisons' chairman, said that the acquisition would make Elementis a fully credible international specialty chemicals group with a clear focus.

Industrial paints account for 60 per cent of Rheox's market and the company sells to all of the world's top 20 paint manufacturers. In addition, the company has been building up sales to makers of

lubricants and drilling muds as well as adhesives and sealants. Rheox raised its operating profit by 13 per cent, to £39 million, in 1996 on sales of \$134 million.

Bill Turcan, Harrisons' chief executive, said he believed Rheox's high return on sales, some 29 per cent in 1996, could be defended because of the company's high market share and its ability to source raw materials internally.

Harrisons said that the acquisition would enhance earnings per share in 1998 after taking account of tax

benefits and before amortisation of goodwill. It is taking advantage of the tax benefits from amortising goodwill in the US over 15 years, which will reduce Rheox's tax charge to 20 per cent or a saving of \$8 million per annum. However, the effect will be to depress reported earnings in the UK accounts although this would depend on the attitude of UK analysts, Mr Turcan said.

Harrisons is taking a one-off exceptional charge of £20 million, including £14 million in asset write-downs in a restructuring of its existing

chemical operations. Harrisons' remaining food business, BOCM Pauls and Pauls Malt, are for sale with offers for the businesses so far well below book value. The company is taking a provision of £50 million to reduce the assets to fair value and rationalisation costs of £5 million are expected.

Harrisons is not paying a final dividend because of the capital repayment but expects its dividend will be covered 2.5 times by earnings in future.

Tempos, page 26

Top candidate resurfaces at Millennium

By DOMINIC WALSH

JOHN WILSON, former chief operating officer of Hilton International, is expected to be appointed as chief executive at Millennium & Copthorne Hotels in the new year, more than six months after he was originally due to take up the post.

Mr Wilson has been on gardening leave since June after his departure from Hilton, part of the Lanco Group, became bogged down in contractual wranglings.

It is understood that his planned move to Millennium provoked fears that he might take with him his best staff members and a number of hotel development opportunities.

Mr Wilson was to have replaced Ed Grenlich, who oversaw the group's flotation in April 1996.

In the wake of these problems, Millennium named John O'Shea as managing director in July, claiming that he had been the best candidate all along and that Mr Wilson had been just one of a number of people considered for the post. However, it would now appear that Mr O'Shea, who was previously with CDL Hotels International, the Singapore company that owns 35

per cent of Millennium, was merely an interim appointment pending the resolution of the situation.

Mr Wilson is believed to have tied up the details of his move when Kwek Leng Beng, the group's Singaporean chairman, was in London for the December board meeting. Analysts believe an announcement will be made ahead of Millennium's annual results in a couple of months' time, although the company dismissed the story as "pure speculation".

Mr Wilson, whose 25 years at Hilton have earned him a reputation as one of the hard men of the hotel industry, is also thought to have been on the initial list of candidates drawn up by Russell Reynolds, the firm of headhunters, to replace Robert Peel as chief executive of Thistle Hotels.

Interestingly, Mr Kwek also has a small indirect shareholding in Thistle, and there were suggestions last year that he was looking at ways of putting Thistle and Millennium & Copthorne together. He is thought to have decided against any sort of merger.

GKN to buy US company

By MARTIN BARROW

GKN, the UK engineering company, has agreed to acquire Armstrong Rim & Wheel for up to \$54 million (around £32 million). It was announced yesterday.

GKN is to pay an initial consideration of \$52 million for 95 per cent of the company's equity, with the balance to be acquired over the next 12 months.

Armstrong, based in Iowa, makes wheels and hubs for agricultural and off-highway vehicles in America and Canada. In 1996, the last year for which audited accounts are available, pre-tax profits were \$3.7 million. Net assets were \$11 million at the end of this year.

Armstrong will become part of GKN's agri-tech division, which supplies components and systems to the agricultural, off-highway and construction industries, and will enhance its presence in North America.

The acquisition, which will be funded from GKN's existing cash resources, is conditional upon clearance from US anti-trust authorities.

GKN shares were unchanged at £12.50 yesterday.

HSBC secures bargain stake in Mexican bank

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HSBC has secured a \$126 million (£75 million) discount on a near 20 per cent stake in Grupo Serfin, Mexico's third-largest retail bank.

When the deal was first announced in March, HSBC agreed to pay \$300 million for the 19.9 per cent holding. Yesterday, it secured the purchase for just \$174 million in Brady bonds.

The seller, the Mexican Government, is understood to have lopped more than 40 per cent off the original asking price after it was forced to offer financial assistance to Banca

Serfin, the group's principal subsidiary.

The financial crisis in South-East Asia is believed to have undermined the asset base of many Latin American banks. Fluctuations in the Mexican currency and other economic woes also served to persuade the Government to drop the initial price.

The deal, which has been approved by the regulatory authorities, marks the latest phase of HSBC's expansion into Latin America. The group, owner of Midland Bank, has made a string of

acquisitions in the region since the beginning of the year.

To date, HSBC has bought 10 per cent of Banco Sur in Peru, rescued Banco Bamerindus in Brazil, taken control of Roberts Group in Argentina and increased its stake in Banco Santiago de Chile.

Shares in HSBC, the UK's largest company until turmoil in South-East Asia hit its stock, rallied on news of the Serfin deal, closing the day up 26p at £15.66. At their peak during the summer, HSBC shares were trading at close to £22.

BP buys German plastics company

By CHRIS AYRES

BRITISH PETROLEUM, the oil group, has become Europe's second-largest polystyrene producer after paying more than £120 million for a German plastics company.

The company, which employs nearly 500 people, is a division of Huls, part of the Veba group. It produces plastics used in the production of compact discs, building insulation and packaging.

The deal is the largest made by BP Chemicals, the BP subsidiary, for 15 years and includes the purchase of two sites, one near Dortmund, western Germany, and the

other in Trelleborg, southern Sweden. BP already has similar plants in France and Wales.

Bryan Sanderson, chief executive of BP Chemicals, said: "The BP Chemicals and Huls businesses have complementary technologies and by joining them together we will create a strong portfolio of products for the styrene polymers market."

Erhard Meyer-Galow, chairman of Huls, added: "We have been searching for a strong partner for a long time and with BP we have found the ideal match."

Cadbury's drive to repel Mars attack

By FRASER NELSON



Creme Eggs: £4m campaign

CHOCOLATE wars are set to erupt next year as Cadbury launches a £4 million marketing campaign to defend its Creme Eggs against new lines from Mars, its arch rival.

Cadbury, which sells one of every three chocolates in the UK, plans to mount its stiffest defence of the £230 million Easter egg market after losing substantial share to Mars at Christmas.

The Creme Egg campaign begins tomorrow with the launch of a £2.5 million advertising campaign. A taskforce of 300 Cadbury sales executives will be deployed to 50,000 sweet shops across the UK, offering a flashing light

stall for the Creme Eggs — designed to deflect attention from alternative brands.

The moves came as Mars claimed to have given Cadbury a solid beating in the variety box "twist-wrap" market through its Celebrations range. Mars says sweet shops are reporting that Celebrations claimed 50 per cent of the twist-wrap market over Christmas, forcing Cadbury's Roses into second place in several cities.

Mars expects that its Celebrations will do similar damage to Cadbury's share of the Easter egg market, and said that it is not planning to spend anywhere near £4 million on its Galaxy truffle eggs or Milky Way mini-eggs.

Cadbury's denied that it was on the run

from Mars, and said it did not rate the Celebrations as a competitor for its Creme Eggs. Cadbury said: "Boxes of sweets are the sort of thing you share with your friends when you have a video around — Creme Eggs are a treat for yourself that no one else can share."

"At the end of the day, we're the only ones who do chocolate eggs with a yolk. Lots of other people have tried to imitate it and no one's come anywhere near in 75 years, so I think we're quite safe for a few years more yet."

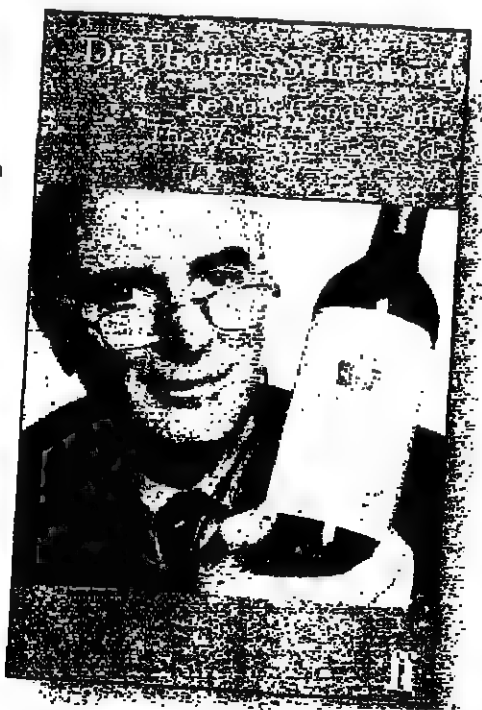
The company expects to produce 300 million Creme Eggs this year to sell in the 14-week run-up to Easter Sunday. The festival falls on April 12 this year, providing an extra 15 shopping days.

EXCLUSIVE OUTER THE TIMES

To Your Good Health! Drinker's Guide only £7.99 inc p&p

Dr Thomas Stuttaford is well known as *The Times* medical columnist, with more than a million readers turning to him daily for advice on the latest medical matters. In this book he sets out a balanced view on drinking and health. The key message is that, taken in moderation, alcohol is good for you. Taken to excess it can be disastrous.

Dr Stuttaford proceeds through history to the latest research and draws on many case studies. What emerges is fascinating. Alcohol, he argues, helps to prevent strokes, lessens the likelihood of late-onset diabetes, acts as an anti-oxidant and improves the sperm count. It even has a beneficial effect on the intellect, especially amongst the elderly.



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STOCK MARKET

Stock Market Writer
of the YearWall Street's strong start
perks up London shares

ANOTHER positive start to trading on Wall Street enabled the London stock market to extend this week's gains, just when it was showing signs of running out of steam.

Positive performances overnight in the Far East set the scene for early trading in the City, though the extended Christmas break chosen by many investors kept trading levels to a minimum.

At one stage the FTSE 100 index was 32.4 higher, but showed signs of flagging before the Dow Jones industrial average slipped in with an 82-point rise. It closed 19.9 higher at 5,132.3, with fewer than 400 million shares trading hands.

The heaviest turnover of the day was seen in British Steel, which managed to struggle off its low for the year with a rise of 1p to 129.4p as 12.72 million shares were traded. There was also demand for BTR, another bombed-out stock in the top 100, which finished 1/2p firmer at 184p as 12.43 million shares were traded.

Elsewhere among the leaders *Lassie* bounced back with a rise of 9p to 276p after coming under selling pressure on Monday.

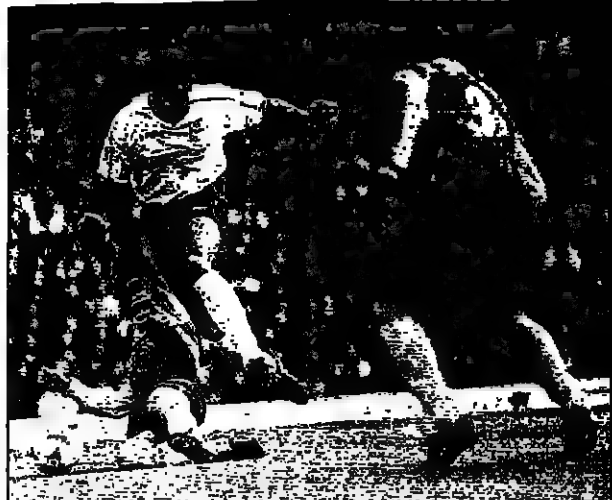
A combination of stock shortages and selective support resulted in double-digit gains among other blue chips, including *Reckitt & Colman*, 7 1/2p to 962p, *Reuters*, 18p to 666p, *Royal Sun Alliance*, 15p to 615p, *EMI*, 12p to 506p, *Great Universal Stores*, 17p to 760p, and *National Power*, 12 1/2p to 590p.

Newly merged *Diageo* slipped 3p to 559p as brokers pondered the prospect of further expansion by the McDonald's burger chain in this country, which would generate fresh competition for its own Burger King chain.

Cordiant rose 7 1/2p to 108 1/2p as it looked to the expected benefits arising from this month's demerger of *Saatchi & Saatchi*, up 1p to 110 1/2p.

Non-voting shares in *Scroders*, one of the few remaining independent merchant banks, touched £18 before settling 10 1/2p dearer at £17.81 after one investor bid £18 for 500 shares in a very thin market.

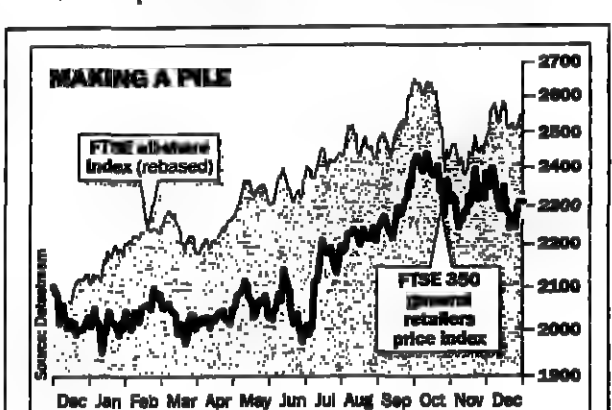
An upward movement in the *London share price* is a rare event these days, but it managed one yesterday with a rise of 1p to 134 1/2p as almost a million shares changed hands. Some brokers say the shares are being selected as a



Spurs, without injured Les Ferdinand, fell 1p

possible recovery play in 1998, after seeing them drop from a peak of 421p since flotation this year. Earlier this month, the telecoms group lost its role as a constituent of the top 250 companies.

Speculative buying pushed *Enviromed* 4 1/2p higher at 13p. On Monday the group confirmed it had been in bid talks, which had been broken down, for the past six months.



IT DOES NOT look like being a prosperous year for Britain's retailers judging by recent comments. On Monday *Littlewoods* moaned that trading during the run-up to Christmas had fallen below expectations. This upset the likes of *Marshall & Spencer* yesterday which ended the session 13p lower at 597p, with *Kingfisher* also 6p off at 833p and *Argos* 5 1/2p cheaper at 551p.

However, some of the bigger-ticket stores, which have already benefited from the building society windfalls, appear to be

within the FTSE All Share for information and technology companies.

There was selective support for other companies which are expected to be included in the new sector, including *CMG*, 37 1/2p to 692 1/2p, *Diagonal*, 17 1/2p to 932 1/2p, *MSB International*, 30p to 637 1/2p, *Micro Focus*, 22 1/2p to 223 1/2p, *Royalblue*, 31 1/2p to 346 1/2p, and *Sherwood International*, 27p to 512 1/2p.

Bond International Software achieved the distinction of becoming the last company to float on the stock market in 1997. Shares in the computer software group started trading yesterday after a placing on AIM at 65p. The price opened at 77 1/2p and closed at its best of the day 24 1/2p at 89 1/2p.

Uncertainty about the future of *Christian Groves*, its new manager, and the latest injury to striker *Les Ferdinand* left *Tottenham Hotspur* 1p down at a new low of 75 1/2p. Now deputy Fritz Schmidt has been denied a work permit to join the side, which was a precondition of *Groves*' appointment. *Groves* has only been in the job five weeks and *Spurs* continue to languish second from bottom in the table.

La Senza fell 2p to 20p with brokers fearing that the pre-Christmas rush had fallen short of expectations. *GILT-EDGED*: Bond prices in London fell by more than £1 on revived fears of a rise in US interest rates. It followed publication of the latest US consumer confidence index, which rose to its highest level for almost 30 years. T-bonds fell sharply, along with German bunds, and dragged gilts down in their wake.

In the futures pit the March series of the long gilt closed £1 1/4 lower at £121 1/4 in thin trading, with just 23,000 contracts completed.

The Bank of England has confirmed plans to hold two gilt auctions between January and March. The first auction on January 28 will be of conventional long stock maturing in December 2029, while a tranche of Treasury 7.25 per cent 2007 will be issued on March 25.

NEW YORK: US blue chips eased off their highs in late morning trading as the market paused after a day and a half of strong gains. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was ahead by 77.23 at 7,869.64.

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	7869.64 (+77.23)
S&P Composite	962.59 (+4.57)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	15258.74 (+483.52)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10755.21 (+252.22)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	913.67 (+14.65)
Sydney:	
ASX 200	2601.4 (+25.1)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4340.69 (+53.32)
Singapore:	
SEAC	1512.06 (+5.24)
Brussels:	
General	1432.21 (+82.38)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2975.47 (+36.01)
Zurich:	
SMI	1250.70 (+4.80)
London:	
FTSE 100	5132.3 (+19.9)
FTSE 250	4768.1 (+35.9)
FTSE 350	2664.5 (+11.2)
FTSE Europe 100	2680.54 (+22.9)
FTSE All-Share	2407.74 (+11.0)
FTSE 100 Financials	2416.19 (+4.1)
FTSE 100 Industrials	135.50 (+0.15)
FTSE 100 Services	101.29 (+0.25)
Bursaphil	3557
SEAC Volume	16560
US\$	1.6560 (+0.0180)
German Mark	2.9673 (+0.0213)
Exchange Index	104.8 (-0.8)
Bank of England official rate (per cent)	4.75
ECB	4.75
ESBIE	1.230
RPI	159.6 Nov (3.7%) Jan 1997-100
RPIX	158.0 Nov (2.9%) Jan 1997-100

Abbey Nat Dublin	93 1/2
Auric	160 1/2
BCO Technologies	160 1/2
Bond Int Software	89 1/2
Bourne	10 1/2
Comland Com	99
Ensigns (200)	250 1/2
King Groves Ind	181 1/2
General Ind	35 1/2
Gooch & Housego	135 1/2
Marchpole	106 1/2
Market Link Publ	55
Northern Recruit	144 1/2
Optiplas	144 1/2
Property Asset	144 1/2
Range Cooker Comp	9 1/2
Rapid Technology	94 1/2
Razorback Vehicles	102 1/2
SCS Upholstery	111 1/2
Second Scot Tr	99 1/2
Second Scottish	23 1/2
Syner	23 1/2
Vanguard Med W	45 1/2

Boycie Ind n/p (500)	402 1/2 + 2 1/2
Taylor Nlm n/p (60)	24 1/2 + 3 1/2

RISER:	
H&L Land	118 1/2 (+17 1/2)
Gardhouse Grp	370p (+25p)
Alfred Carpa	177 1/2 (+10p)
Premier Farm	457 1/2 (+20p)
Jarvis	303 1/2 (+18p)
Brewin Dolphin	248 1/2 (+10p)
Br Borneo	454p (+13p)
Anglo Am Plst	825p (+25p)
Allied Irish	576p (+15p)
Caplight	452p (+12p)
Laporte	666p (+17 1/2p)
Reuters	666p (+18p)
Rio Tinto Ltd	891p (+18p)
Irish Life	338p (+14p)
Reckitt Colm	962p (+27p)
FALLS:	
BOC	99 1/2 (-28p)
Maris Spence	597p (-13p)
Hays	789p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 31

Shaky foundations

IF THE building societies are sanguine about a healthy housing market in 1998, the stock market seems to be in a state of deep gloom about housebuilders. Bovis was forced to sell its shares on a prospective price earnings multiple of less than nine times, only to see the shares slump further. Beaver sells on a multiple of 8.5 times June 1998 earnings and poor old Wimpey's shares can be bought on just 6.5 times next year's earnings.

Priced at 102p, Wimpey shares are now trading at well below last year's asset value of 125p, which does not include this year's profits or gains in the value of the land bank. Of course, Wimpey has its problems. The company has reached such a size that it will find it difficult to grow its core businesses; replenishing the land bank could be expensive and will deter a bidder. But Wimpey is

still too cheap and the pressure is on Wimpey's management to find solutions.

Other companies, like Beaver have fewer constraints and there is no reason why it should not achieve earnings growth well above the market rate for the next two years without any great increase in house transactions or house prices. The stock market is rightly uneasy about the sector, which is overcrowded, but next year could bring some consolidation.

Builders with a London and South East bias have enjoyed an unrepeatable burst of profits, churning out houses on land acquired cheaply but which will have to be replaced with expensive land bought today. Companies like Countryside with a long South East land bank could now be vulnerable to a takeover. With a clean balance sheet, Beaver looks in a good position to make an opportunistic move.

Chemicals

ON THE face of it, chemicals had a pretty poor year, with the FTSE Chemicals index gaining just 10 per cent compared with 19 per cent for the market as a whole. The strength of the pound was the main factor upsetting growth, making UK firms less competitive in relation to European rivals.

Nonetheless, chemicals companies cannot complain too much about their share prices. The sector did well to gain 10 per cent, performing significantly better than the engineering and packaging sectors, which showed all negative growth. If chemicals did better than expected, it is because of self-help. The industry is in full restructuring mode, with firms carving up their portfolios, selling off divisions and buying new businesses from

Harrisons

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, to be renamed Elements, has almost completed its transition from conglomerate to chemicals company. Plantations and pet food are gone and yesterday, Harrisons made its core chemical business look more convincing.

Priced at 12 times operating profits, Rheox is hardly cheap, but businesses that earn operating margins of almost 30 per cent do not sell on low multiples. There are further attractions: the company has a huge market share, some 50 per cent in Europe and North America, and owns important raw material sources in the form of a clay deposit in California.

The big question is whether such margins are sustainable, but Harrisons reckons that its share of the market is defensible because of its access to raw materials.

The company will be under some pressure to grow the business, which on the pur-

Sanctuary

chase price is earning an investment yield of just 8 per cent. Nevertheless, Harrisons has got a business which makes more credible its claim to status as a chemicals company. The existing portfolio is dominated by its chromium business, a high-margin but mature business which also enjoys high barriers to entry, largely because of the environmental hazards in the manufacturing process.

Profits growth will be held back by the amortisation of goodwill on acquisition and the balance sheet will look top heavy after the capital repayment, but Rheox finally gives Harrisons a business with potential to grow and the possibility of a better share rating.

heavy metal bands such as Iron Maiden, ploughing the £7 million that this rather dull division rakes in each year into a start-up television company, Cloud 9. Some highly saleable programming (Enid Blyton, etc) is now ready to be distributed worldwide. However, the company's ability to sell these programmes is unproven, and investment costs have held back group pre-tax profits to just £300,000.

Sanctuary has a 60 per cent stake in SMP, an AIM-listed record company with a safe but boring studio and promotions business and several joint venture record labels. SMP has many advantages: its costs are low and risk is shared by selling rights to major record labels, but Cloud 9 looks better positioned for growth. At 25p it is worth a punt, but investors should remember the unimpressive financial track record.

FOR fans of popular culture, Sanctuary provides a risky but attractive prospect. Set up as a music business, it managed unashamedly.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE				ICIS-LOR (London 50ppm) CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)				GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES LIFE (shat) LIFE BARLEY (shat)									
COCOA				Brent Physics				JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC									
Oct	1040.51	Mar	1104-1104		16.13	-0.33											
Jan	1080-1089	May	1180-1181		16.70	0.30											
Mar	1085-1094	Jul	1200-1201		16.70	0.30											
Jul	1109-1102	Sep	1230	0.90													
Sep	1120-1125																
	1124-1127	Volume 3076															
RUSSIAN COFFEE (B)				W Trade Undercover (Mar)				W Trade Undercover (Mar)				W Trade Undercover (Mar)					
Jan	1715-1714	Mar	1715-1714		16.13	-0.33											
May	1705-1706	Nov	1705-1706		16.70	0.30											
Jul	1710-1711	Dec	1710-1711		16.70	0.30											
	1667-1668	Volume 2260															
WHITE SUGAR (POB)				Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)				LIFE POTATO (Jan) Open Close				LIFE SUGAR (Jan) Open Close					
Jan	300-301	Oct	300-301		171	141	173	141									
Mar	301-302	Dec	301-302		171	141	173	141									
May	302-303	Jan	302-303		171	141	173	141									
Jul	303-304	Mar	303-304		171	141	173	141									
Oct	304-305	May	304-305		171	141	173	141									
Dec	305-306	Jul	305-306		171	141	173	141									
	314-315	Volume 1733															
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION				Naphtha				LIFE SUGAR (Jan) Open Close				LIFE SUGAR (Jan) Open Close					
Average landed price, representative markets on December 29				173				173				173					
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Keep the momentum, not the rhetoric

If a mere state visit by the leaders of France was enough to wheel out all available symbols of Cool Britannia at Canary Wharf in November (flowers by Paula Fryke, Islington's favourite florist, sofas by Sir Terence Conran), it can scarcely be imagined what kind of whirlwind cultural iconography will be displayed during Britain's six-month presidency of the European Union beginning tomorrow.

Cynics would argue that putting on a show, taking the opportunity to dole out a bit more of new Labour's rebranding of Britain, is the best way to elide the truth that Britain has no role to play in this six-month slice of the Union's history. This is, after all, the crucial few months when the members of the single currency are chosen and bilateral exchange rates set, and Britain, of course, has ruled out joining the euro during this Parliament.

The UK presidency begins against a backdrop of considerable mutual irritation on the subject of the single currency, centring on the skirmish about whether Britain will be invited to meetings of the Euro-X committee of euro "last". Britain claims victory, having established the principle that Ecofin, the forum for all EU finance ministers, in or out of the euro, will be the key decision-making body and that Euro-X will discuss matters only of strict relevance to members of the single currency.

That may be the public compromise but the truth is that the 11 countries, which Karel van Miert, EU Competition Commissioner, yesterday forecast would join the euro in the first wave, will discuss what they damned well like in their own committee and a voluntary "out" like Britain can do little more than stamp its feet.

The main decisions on the single currency have already been made in deals done in Paris and Bonn, and Britain would be well advised to forget the single currency during its presidency and force the agenda on other matters of strategic importance. It would be a great shame either if Labour pique over Euro-X or its penchant for high-tech image-making and high-flown rhetoric (Robin Cook's summing up of his aspirations for the presidency was "Giving Europe back to the people") were to divert it from trying, at least, to push through a useful programme of reform of the Union.

There are serious issues which, with careful husbandry and a dash of British diplomatic expertise (still admired in other European capitals despite beef wars and Euro-X), could see progress over the next six months. Enlargement of the EU is one such. So too, at the risk of leaving British farmers even more ap-

plectic than they are already, is reform of the common agricultural policy, necessary if new members are to be absorbed. These issues were always highlighted by successive Conservative governments in a doomed attempt to distract its European partners from their obsession with the single currency. Now that the euro is virtually certain to happen, on time and with a broad membership, these programmes assume actual and pressing importance.

Realistically, none of this is likely to make much headway until the euro is up and running in 1999, when Germany assumes the presidency, but Britain should still try to give the agenda momentum in a favourite new Labour buzzword. One way in which it could make a real virtue of its unique diplomatic position between America and Europe is, as the Federal Trust has suggested, to strengthen co-ordination between the enlargement strategies both of the EU and Nato.

That said, the major theme of the next six months will be jobs, jobs, jobs. Britain will seek to proselytise its own work on New Deals for the unemployed, Welfare to Work and the need for flexible labour markets. After the row over lone mother and invalidity benefits, it may not get a polite hearing from the French, determined to fight for social feather bedding whatever the cost, but the British (and American) model is getting stronger by the day.

America looks to 'John Wayne' to halt Microsoft's stampede

Bill Gates had demigod status but became a 'wanted man'. Oliver August finds out why

Using \$4 billion would ruin anyone's end-of-year celebrations. Bill Gates is currently nursing the wounds inflicted on his personal fortune. Stock market gyrations took a heavy toll of America's richest man. But he will remember 1997 as his *annus horribilis* for more than financial reasons.

Until this year, he was the darling of America's fastest-growing industry, the demigod of the computer world, the corporate citizen number one who would ensure America's future global dominance. At the height of his popularity, the launch of Windows 95 software live on CNN was treated like the official announcement of the Eleventh Commandment.

This summer the Microsoft chairman visited Britain and Russia and was received with the ceremonial pomp usually reserved for heads of state. Parish councils everywhere wanted him to open plants in their backyard and universities begged him to toss them a slice of high-tech research. Schoolchildren lifted their fingers from keyboards to wave at the modern-day alchemist. Royalty was wheeled out to convey the respect and esteem the Old World held him in. All but the sacrificial slaughter of a rival computer product on the airport tarmac was included in the ceremonies.

What a change it must have made for Gates. For at home, he has become a bogeyman. The only hands waving at him are clenched in angry fists. Fan mail has been replaced by court orders. His own Microsoft programmes are being turned on him by furious e-mailers who bombard him with electronic jibes and complaints. Seeking refuge, he moved into a secluded 100-room mansion in the remote woods of Washington state shielded by the Rocky Mountains. The Gates compound is already being dubbed Xanadu, after the mad mogul's castle in Orson Welles's film *Citizen Kane*.

The vilification of the Microsoft chairman started in relative harmlessness as a string of jokes forwarded and multiplied on the Internet. He was an obvious target as the key personality in the industry. One joke that reached *The Times* e-mail envisions Gates, Bill Clinton and Al Gore perishing in an aeroplane crash. Arriving in heaven, they are asked by God what they believe in. Gore says he believes that the combustion engine is evil and the environment needs saving. God nods in approval and invites him to be seated on his left. Clinton

says he believes in the good in man and the power of democracy. God invites him to sit on his right and then turns to Gates. "And what do you believe?" Gates replies: "I believe you are in my chair."

The Gates jokes are now swamping Internet sites once devoted to serious and informed debate about problems with Microsoft programmes. Gallows humour remains as the last line of defence. Old jokes are recycled with new punchlines. "How many Microsoft engineers does it take to change a lightbulb? None. They just declare that darkness will be the new universal standard."

The charge behind the jokes is a serious one. Americans and their Government have become alarmed over the past 12 months about Microsoft's market dominance. Surveys regularly find that Gates is believed to be more powerful than Clinton. The paranoia that Gates "wants to take over the world" is based on the fact that he has not only a monopoly but a stranglehold on personal computers.

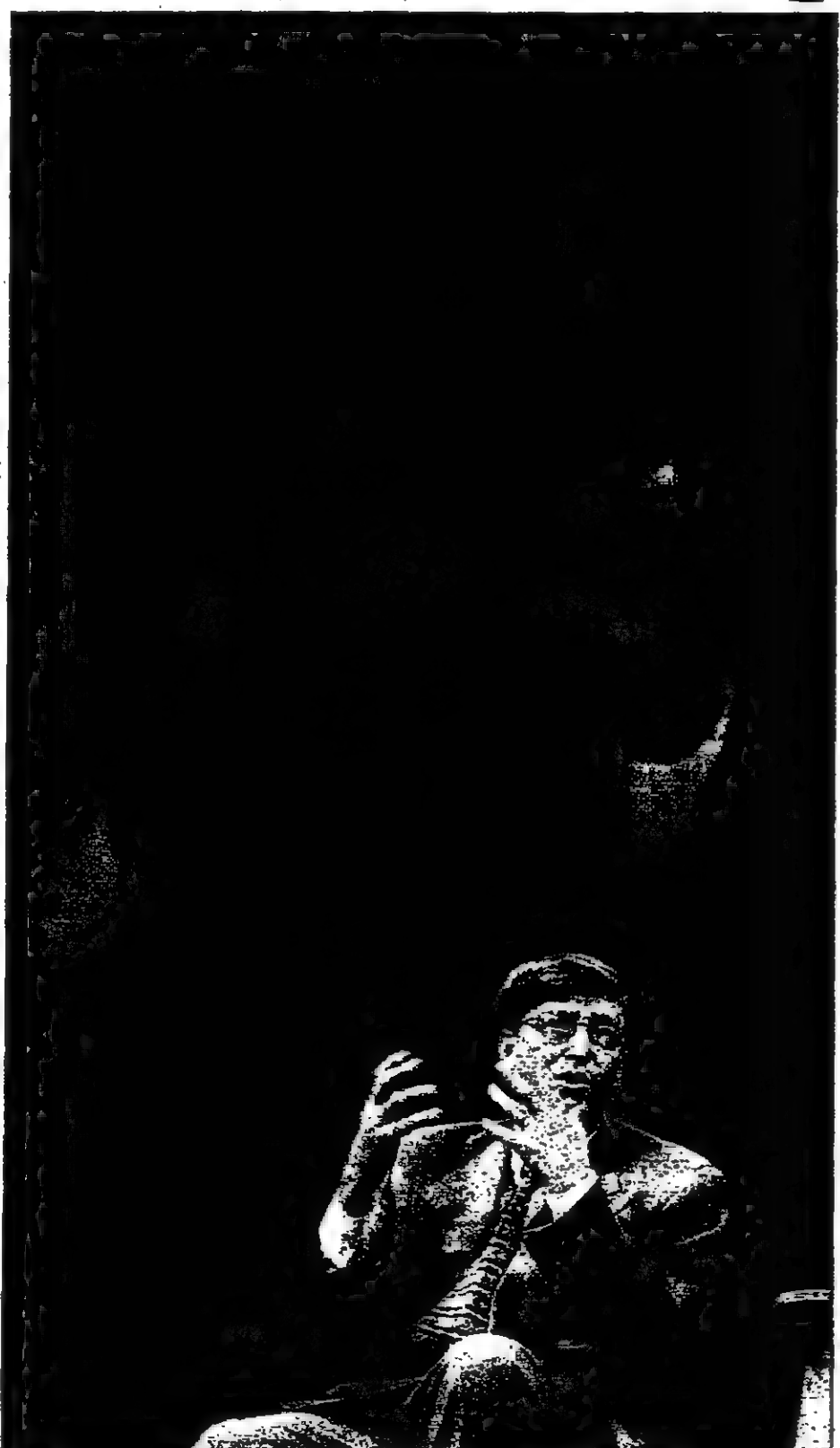
One is more likely to find a Microsoft product in any given American home or office than a product made by Coca-Cola, Disney or Kodak. Gabriel Goldberg, of the Capital PC Users Group, said: "I am not a Microsoft basher. I run Windows 95. But I really like competition. Suppose you could only buy food from McDonald's?"

In November Gates was treated to a virtual crucifixion at a Microsoft-bashing conference organised by Ralph Nader, the consumer champion. Now Bob Dole, last year's Republican presidential candidate, has jumped on the bandwagon. Once again he is ranting a tin can. This time he is asking for money to fund an anti-Microsoft campaign.

He wrote in a letter to other computer companies: "In the coming months, we will need to educate the public, the Administration and Congress about a laissez faire attitude toward Microsoft. I am personally convinced that if nothing is done now, it will be increasingly difficult to have fair competition in the years ahead. That is why we need companies like yours to help to finance and support our efforts."

The animosity toward Microsoft and Gates has been fuelled by what is seen as the company's arrogance and incompetence. Niels Brynau-Low, the American-born managing director of Proteus, a London Internet company, said: "It is not just that Microsoft is all-powerful and people fear it could one day limit our freedom to communicate. There is also the complaint that Microsoft products don't work. It has a monopoly so it gets away with murder. Microsoft servers crash all the time. Instead of fixing its existing products, it continually churns out new ones with new problems. The only reason the company gets away with it is that there is no competition. That's why people hate them so much."

The vilification of Microsoft and Gates reached a new climax with the current anti-trust suit waged by the Justice Department. Joel Klein, the government lawyer in charge,



Concern has grown about the dominance of the Microsoft empire run by Bill Gates

won a rare victory earlier this month, when a judge compelled the company to divorce its Windows 95 operating system from its Internet software. The Justice Department is alleging that Microsoft is forcing computer manufacturers to use its Internet software if they want to load up the operating system. The reason for this, according to Mr Klein, is that the company wants to win the same monopoly position on the Internet that it has in the operating system market. Once achieved, Gates could control access to the Internet.

Mr Klein is seeking a \$1 million (£600,000) a day fine until Microsoft complies with the ruling. The move is reminiscent of UN sanctions against rogue nations such as Iraq. Gates makes an unlikely ersatz Saddam, but he is on the way to topping a business version of "America's most wanted man" list.

Not since the days of J. P. Morgan and John D. Rockefeller has a businessman — who is not a fraudster *à la* Boesky and Milken — faced so much animosity in America. Like Morgan and Rockefeller, Gates accumulated his fortune by dominating the fastest-growing sector of the economy — steel and railways a hun-

clear. Yes, those tricky "buy" and "hold" bids.

Pass it on I AM sorry to have to break the news to those people who have participated in good faith, but there is another of those chain letters going around the City purporting to benefit Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. I have just received my second approach. Recipients are asked to help to raise more than £1.5 million for the hospital, which "has recently had to close four wards to make ends meet". They are asked to contribute just £2 to the hospital but forward copies of the letter to ten further individuals.

These things are started honestly and with the best of motives. The trouble is, the hospital does not approve, and they were stopped. This is not a form of fundraising it en-

dred years ago, computers today. But that's where the similarities end.

While Morgan and Rockefeller were arrogant men who preferred the company of well-educated Englishmen to that of their workers and fellow steel barons, Gates embraces a touchy-feely corporate culture. To his short-sleeved, bespectacled employees on the company campus on the Pacific coast he is simply Bill, an approachable nerd who has turned many of them into stock option millionaires.

Microsoft itself explains the public animosity as greed and jealousy. Brad Chase, a vice-president, said: "There is this weird thing in America about the way we deal with successful companies."

He misses the point. Americans don't begrudge Gates his \$32 billion fortune nor did they display *schadenfreude* when it plunged from \$39 billion. They believe he's worth all those billions and more. It's his just desert for being wildly successful. Wall Street values Microsoft on a par with the whole US car sector.

Why Gates has become a bogeyman in a country that cherishes wealth and admires success can only be understood in the context of America's obsession with modern technology. Britons still think of computers as a tool. Partly out of contempt for soulless machines, partly out of Luddite fear, computers have not taken centre stage in our public consciousness.

But in America "cyberspace" has filled the spiritual void created when the Wild West was conquered and irrigated. Cyberspace is the new frontier. A land of wide open plains where every American can stake his or her claim. Cyberspace gives them the chance to follow the example of their forefathers, to trek into uncharted territory, taking destiny into their own hands. And today they can do so from their living room without having to massacre Red Indians.

The computer sector is a land of grand opportunities and untold wealth — as Gates demonstrated. He was the grandfather of the new gold rush. But America turned against him when he reached a position from which he could control the progress of all other gold diggers. The threat that he could control access to the Internet was the final straw.

Americans fear he could curtail their new trek west by erecting barriers. Whether any one person or company should shield the American Dream is questionable. But many Americans agree with Robert Katz, a vice-president of Netscape, a Microsoft competitor, who said: "Microsoft wants to create a giant toll booth for the Internet." In Mr Klein, America has found its new John Wayne.

BRAND warriors: corporate leaders share their winning strategies in a business book available to British Airways executive club members at a special price. And which brand warrior heads the list of corporate leaders in the ad in BA's giveaway magazine? Bob Ayling, chief executive of BA.

Scam claim A MILLENNIAL forecast from one City fraudbuster, which warns of a new wave of frauds coming to light in 1999. It seems frauds, like sunspots, El Niño and hemlines on skirts, arrive in easily predictable cycles, of four years in this case. Simon Bevan, of the Arthur Andersen Fraud Services Unit, claims that BCCI, Maxwell, Wallace Smith Trust and Roger Levitt all emerged in 1991. In 1995 there

was Barings and Daiwa. "Therefore I believe that another bout of major fraud cases will emerge before the end of the century, probably in 1999."

His argument is that a big wave of frauds puts other managers on their guard. They spend the first year of the cycle putting in controls to prevent their own businesses falling victim. By years three and four these defences grow lax, and the fraudsters strike. Logical enough, except that it seems to disregard one or two important facts, that many frauds such as Barings and Sumitomo are more a case of individuals trying to dig themselves out of trouble and thereby getting in deeper, or that others, such as Robert Maxwell, go on for some years without being discovered. But I pass it on to you anyway as something else to worry about.

MARTIN WALLER

Tiger feat

EXPECT to hear roars of a once-familiar voice in the new year. Jonathan Cusance Baker is gradually taking over the top roles at Exeter Investment Group, the money manager he joined as managing director in October. I am not suggesting Cusance Baker is in any way a publicity hound, but he did once pose with a live tiger to help to launch James Capel's Far East Tiger Index Fund a few years back. This event has entered City mythology, and he is now widely believed to have put his head in the tiger's mouth, to the extent that his publicity people have even offered me pictures of this non-existent event. "I'm not that mad," he says.

Cusance Baker has spent the past three years labouring under some improbably long job title at the Bank of Bermuda. He is taking over the chairmanship of EIG's unit trust arm and will eventually run the investment trust side as well, as Ian Henderson, EIG's chief executive and founder, bows out towards retirement.



I ask if leaving Bermuda was a wrench, even if it did reunite him with his family. "I've had three miserable years lying in the sunshine trying to decide if it was the right weather for sailing or for golf. Someone had to do it."

AS WE journalists are no longer allowed to identify guilty parties, I am not allowed to name the investment bank involved, but a correction reached my desk



"Forget the Mayor of London — I just want to work in the City"

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MARTIN WALLER

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1997: the Interface end-of-term report

It's been a turbulent year for the technology industry. Hype, misinformation and general uncertainty as to pricing and product standards have all added to the mix with companies from every side of the marketplace claiming to be shakers and movers in 1997.

Interface takes a retrospective look at the past 12 months, and offers an end-of-year report on the real winners and losers.

INDUSTRY NAMES

Recommended: Hewlett-Packard continue to compete aggressively and professionally in a variety of technology markets. The well-built and attractively featured equipment range has propelled the company from being an also-ran to the position of a \$43 billion giant second only to IBM in the computer rankings.

Disappointing: Apple seems to excel at snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. Even the most loyal of their supporters must be wondering where it will all end, as the company prevaricates over the choice of a permanent chief executive and continues to lose top executive talent to its competitors.

Watch out for: RealNetworks, the creators of software for transmitting multimedia over the Internet, has just enjoyed a successful share flotation in the US and all the signs are that this innovative Seattle-based company could be going places. Clever net companies continue to hold the confidence of Wall Street even in these troubled times, and Real has good products, as well as an added edge in the form of Microsoft as a shareholder.

HARDWARE

Recommended: Pentium II architecture. It may not offer a quantum leap in performance terms right now, but the new Intel processor and motherboard architecture promises serious speed and convenience benefits over the next couple of years.

Disappointing: MMX and CE handheld computers. A victim of its own hype, MMX is the damp squib that never really took off. The technology was sold as an important milestone in multimedia computing, but in reality has had far less impact on the PC than 3-D graphics cards. Windows CE computers also failed to set the world alight this year. Heralded as the answer to portable computing dreams, the systems turned out to be battery hogs with mediocre performance and few outstanding features.

Watch out for: The low price of RAM (and more efficient microprocessors) continues to drive the inventive development of smaller, more powerful computer products. Watch for the mini notebook and personal organiser market to boom as products from Japan start to filter out on to the international scene.

SOFTWARE

Recommended: Windows NT has come of age this year. The surprise has been just



Now pay attention, class: what ever would Mr Chips have made of the 1997 generation of super-chip computers?

After a fast-moving year, Nigel Powell reviews the tops and flops in the IT industry from software to mobile phones, plus the technologies destined to make an impact in the coming months

how fast and widespread the adoption of the Microsoft operating environment has been.

Not only is it sweeping the board in large companies around the world, but it is gaining important wins in industry sectors such as broadcast and graphic design which have traditionally been the stronghold of companies such as Apple, SGI and Sun.

Disappointing: The problem with over-hyping a product or technology is that eventually you have to deliver on the promises, and in this respect Java has been a disappointment this year.

Reset by excruciatingly slow performance across the Internet, Core's very public withdrawal from Java development and the exploding of the "write once, run anywhere" myth, Java is now desperately seeking a proper home in the scheme of things.

Watch out for: Multimedia entertainment software. PC games have already

eclipsed the dedicated console systems in terms of graphical quality and entertainment value. Watch for this trend to continue as chips get more powerful and technologies such as DVD start to arrive on the market.

PERIPHERALS

Recommended: Colour inkjet printing. Colour printing at the desktop is now fast, high-quality and at the right price point. Products such as the landmark Lexmark 7200 have pushed the market to new levels of value and this trend is set to continue at a furious pace in the new year as the competition heats up.

Disappointing: 56K modems have been hamstrung by continued wrangles over an official standard, and most purchasers have adopted a wait-and-see stance. This situation should change next year once the new standard is ratified by the International Telecommunications Union.

Watch out for: Removable storage and digital cameras look set to be the hot technologies of 1998. Digital cameras continue to astonish with their improved performance and plummeting prices, and removable hard disk products from companies such as Iomega and SyQuest also promise excellent value for money.

ROAD WARRIORS

Recommended: Mobile phones are becoming cheaper, more powerful and more flexible. Innovative products such as the GC25 PCMCIA/PC Card phone from Ericsson (plug it into the laptop and the computer becomes the phone) should ensure the progress of cellular convenience into 1998 and beyond.

Disappointing: GSM data speeds. The hoped-for benefits of universally fast speeds for wireless data transmissions have failed to materialise. The cellular authorities really need to get their act together now to meet the demand from

business for transactions on the move. **Watch out for:** Telecommunications pricing and choice. The boom in telecommunications can only be a blessing for businesses on a budget. Mobile phones now compete directly with landline services and the continuing price reductions should benefit every business that relies on the telephone as a lifeline.

INTERNET

Recommended: Internet Explorer 4. Not a landmark product by any means, but a very able one. Microsoft has taken advantage of Netscape's focus on the corporate marketplace to deliver a cleverly featured and very usable Web browser. **Disappointing:** E-commerce has simply not caught the public's imagination yet. Few doubt that it will eventually shine, but until then the prime movers will have to overcome people's instinctive mistrust of Internet security.

Watch for: Set-top boxes. 1998 could make

or break the set-top box. Will it be a digital television, Web-enabled beast, or a dedicated standalone Internet unit à la Microsoft's WebTV? Only time, and the canny buying public, will tell.

SMALL/HOME OFFICE **Recommended:** The Internet. Any small company which fails to recognise the potential of the World Wide Web to improve their business service is destined to regret it. It may not be obvious right now, but the Web is a slow but sure revolution in the making.

Disappointing: Technology support. The small business purchaser is still being treated with contempt by most technology vendors when it comes to technical assistance. User documentation (nowadays trendily re-named online help) generally remains pitiful, and pre and post-sales support is patchy at best.

Watch out for: Improved mobile and home office facilities. New digital telephone links, cheaper video-conferencing systems from companies such as Intel and better fax/telephone services should all offer the small business more options for keeping in touch with customers and colleagues.

Beware: that 'secure' phone can be cloned

British researchers say they can now clone digital telephones — used by VIPs including the Royal Family — because they were thought to be unbreakable — and that calls made on these phones are widely eavesdropped on by the security services.

A team at Cambridge University's Computer Laboratory (CUCL) believe they can now intercept what were thought to be indecipherable codes sent by telephones using the GSM (Global System for Mobile communications) system to clone a user's telephone and make calls at their expense.

GSM telephones became popular after a series of embarrassing disclosures when radio hams eavesdropped on private conversations involving the Prince of Wales, Mrs Camilla Parker-Bowles and the Princess of Wales and sold transcripts to national newspapers.

Because the system is supposed to use high-level encryption between the handset and base station, it was thought that such disclosures would be impossible. Another advantage of the system is that, unlike with analogue mobile phones, it should be impossible to intercept codes the handset uses to identify itself to the network and program them into another telephone, thereby allowing a criminal to make calls at the expense of the innocent user.

But now Ross Anderson of CUCL says he and a team of researchers have found there are glaring security holes in the GSM system which would let anyone clone a GSM

GSM codes could be intercepted

telephone. His discovery followed a challenge from MobilCom, a subsidiary of German company Telekom, which offered 100,000 DM (£33,800) to any telephone hacker who was able to communicate at the expense of the (national) number 017-328 9946. The related SIM card was said to be safely stored in a lawyer's office. The cash would go to a "social institution" of the hacker's choice.

"This caught our attention," wrote Anderson in the online *Risks Forum* newsletter. "Cambridge University, being a registered charity, surely qualifies as a social institution, and 100,000 DM would buy us a triple-wavelength laser microprobe workstation for chipcard breaking. So we had a look at GSM and found a way to hack it."

"We worked out what equipment we'd need and where we could borrow it, assembled the team, checked that the attack would work, and then started trying to find the right person in Deutsche Telekom to speak to."

"We needed to know the IMSI (International Mobile Subscriber Identification) and get written confirmation of the challenge; otherwise the attack might have been interpreted as an offence under Britain's Wireless Telegraphy Act."

Anderson eventually received a fax from the German telephone company, saying

the offer had been withdrawn, but he still believes the "hack" is possible. "When a GSM phone is turned on, its identity (the IMSI) is relayed to the authentication centre of the company that issued it, and this centre sends back a set of five 'triples'."

"Each triple consists of a random challenge, a response that the handset must return to authenticate itself, and a key for encrypting subsequent traffic between the mobile and the base station. The station then relays the random challenge to the handset."

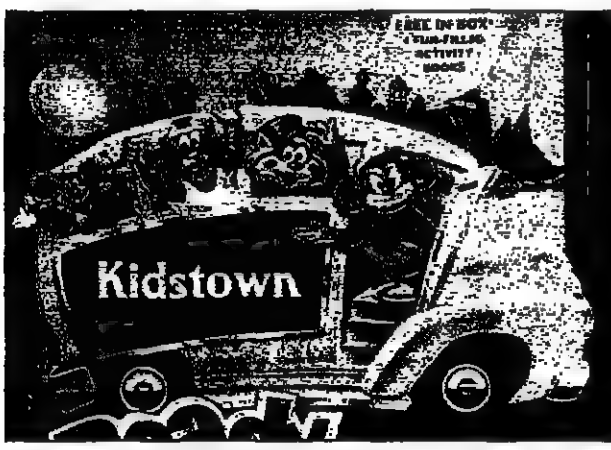
"The SIM card which personalises the handset holds a secret code issued by the authentication centre, and it computes both the response and the content key from the random challenge using this secret code. The vulnerability we planned to exploit is that, though there is provision in the standard for encrypting the traffic between the base station and the authentication centre, in practice operators leave the transmissions in clear."

"The official reason for doing so is simplicity, but Anderson claims it is so that the security services can listen in to what users believe are private calls. Anderson says the necessary equipment would cost £12,500 and could be assembled by a competent radio ham within months. "Essentially, you could charge calls to any GSM phone whose IMSI you know. IMSIs can be harvested by eavesdropping, both passive and active," he says. "IMSI-catchers are commercially available."

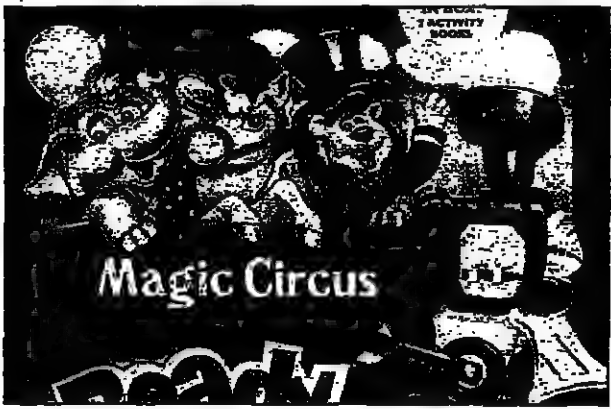
CHRIS WARD



Into the hi-tech age: Fisher-Price's Fun for Kids



Kidstown, the educational toy aimed at toddlers



The Magic Circus comes to town on the home computer

Baby toys in smooth move to multimedia

Do you remember your Action Ramps garage with the lift that you wound up and down to get the tiny cars in and out? Or how about the Farmyard with all those neat little plastic animals?

Now educational toymaker Fisher-Price, creator of the world's best-loved baby activity centre, has developed a new range of activities for preschool children that make the family computer more important than ever.

Fisher-Price has made educational toys for the past 65 years. It is said that one in two children in the UK has played with one of its Baby Activity Centres. Now the company's Ready for Learning series of software takes over where the activity centre left off.

The company has managed to transfer its "feel-good factor" into software without losing any of the charm. The four current titles are aimed at children aged from 18 months to six years old, and feature a range of activities.

Each title has a progressively more advanced content which, starting with *Play Family*, deals with basic counting and shape-sorting sections and moves on through the *Kidstown*, *Toyland*, and *Magic Circus* titles to cover simple arithmetic and even telling the time. The whole series has a strong musical content.

Some of Fisher-Price's success must be owing to its policy of innovation and change to suit the marketplace. It reviews more than 4,500 new product ideas every year, but only ten to 15 make it into the

final stage. Each year, more than 2,000 children are asked to participate in product tests to determine which products will be sold.

Parents are actively involved in the tests, too — more than 1,000 (mostly mothers) are asked for their opinions on the latest innovations in play technology.

The first Fisher-Price pull-along toy, made in 1930 and called Dr Doodle, was the brainchild of Irving L. Price, who teamed up with Herman G. Fisher to create a company which has, to date, produced more than 2,400 different toy products.

Renata Damhuis, the company's educational software manager, says: "Our entry into the software market is a logical step forward. "Multimedia titles are the ideal way to capture and maintain a child's attention during their early years, and get them ready to use computers when they start school."

For more information on Fisher-Price ring 0118 920 9100

RAY HATLEY

Best new software titles

Encyclopaedia Britannica CD 96 (Encyclopaedia Britannica, £125): The most comprehensive collection of information reviewed this year, with 72,000 articles on two CDs offering a huge range of fully searchable data suitable for eight-year-olds to academics. A slightly complex installation program is the only real drawback. (0800 282433)

Drugsense (New Media, £74.95): Today's primary school children are becoming increasingly aware of drugs. This multimedia resource, aimed at teachers and pupils aged between nine and 13, contains real life stories, computer games, peer group pressure tactics and aids to enable teachers to structure lessons that deal with the problem of drugs. Printable data sheets include common terminology and what to do in an emergency. (01491 413999)

2 Good 2 Be True (Sierra, £34.99): A compilation of six quality Sierra titles worth more than £70, including *Ultimate Soccer Manager*, *EarthSiege*, *Caesar*, *3D Ultra Pinball*, *Print Artist* and *Nascar Racing*. It needs a minimum 486DX 2/66 computer running Windows 95 with 16 Mb of Ram. (0118 920 9111)

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Equities extend gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	99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Judi Dench's "Incandescent" performance in David Hare's *Amy's View*, which transfers to the West End next week, belies the terrible difficulty she had learning her lines

The millennium dame

Talk of an Oscar nomination for *Mrs Brown* has not diminished Judi Dench's love affair with the theatre, she tells Matt Wolf

At this late date it hardly needs pointing out that Judi Dench is a great actress, but it is the specific nature of her greatness that continues to enthral. Whereas Maggie Smith brilliantly peddles a persona and Diana Rigg traffics in a defining English cool, Dench remains the sole theatrical dame to disappear inside roles so varied that she is playing Cleopatra, Gertrude and Lady Bracknell one minute, singing Sondheim and Kander and Ebb the next.

Like the late Peggy Ashcroft, Dench is finding well into her career a screen renown that has eluded her for the better part of 40 years. Just turned 63, Dench is being touted by *The New York Times* as the one performer assured a best actress nomination (for *Mrs Brown*) when the Oscar hopefuls are named in February. And she has already been nominated for a Golden Globe, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's annual awards which are widely regarded as pointers to the Oscars. It is not surprising, though, to learn that Dench isn't sure she can attend the March 23 Academy Awards ceremony if she is indeed nominated. The actress is otherwise engaged until April with her first love, the theatre, giving a performance in *Amy's View* that her director, Richard Eyre, rightly describes as "completely incandescent".

David Hare's play opened last

June at the National and is now preparing its West End transfer, with Broadway to follow in spring 1999. Written with Dench in mind, *Amy's View* casts the actress as an actress, so one can safely assume that the gifts ascribed to her character, Esme, are no less true of the player herself. "Layers, I play a lot of layers," Esme explains early on, adding in the final scene that true artistry "comes with the passage of time: you go deeper — right down to the core".

Dench, for her part, prefers not to analyse a talent that she has been refining since 1957, when she attracted attention as Ophelia to John Neville's *Hamlet* at the Old Vic. "After all, it is the profession. It is the basic skill: if you can't get that right, you simply shouldn't be doing the job," she says, paraphrasing a remark of Esme's in the play. Speaking in that distinctive vocal husk matched only by her *Amy's View* co-star Samantha Bond, Dench continues: "It's like a mille-feuille cake that's 1,000 layers down: when you're reading a part, you see a line but you're not necessarily saying that line at all. If you can't understand that, you might as well give up."

Esme is the third actress played by Dench of late, following her Arkadina in *The Seagull* and a

remarkable Desirée Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music*, who made of the potentially overfamiliar *Send In the Clowns* a poignant act of self-criticism: for once, one recognised Desirée herself as the greatest dupe. "They're three different girls,"

6 An award is lovely but it means the next day you've got to do better 2

though," says Dench. "That's why any similarity didn't occur to me because they are different people, and different people react in different ways, whether they are accountants, secretaries, or whatever."

More apparent, at least at first, was the difficulty Dench was having learning a role about which she can afford many months later to be passionate. "I mean, I could do the whole of *Twelfth Night* now, and

Midsummer Night's Dream, and *Measure for Measure*; none of that is hard because Shakespeare has such a rhythm and you just remember it." With *Amy's View*, by contrast, "after three weeks, I asked Richard to release me: I was in a terrible state. I couldn't learn it at all. I used to go straight home, get into the bath, and say to myself I cannot get out until I have learnt four to five pages. I was desperately unsure."

Such perils notwithstanding, Dench remains a creature of the theatre, both solo and in tandem with Michael Williams, her husband of nearly 27 years. (The couple have a daughter, Finty, herself an actress who has a small role in *Mrs Brown*.) "I know some people don't want that thing of ever having to do a play twice or four times or 100 times, but I like it. I think if I chose only to do films, I would get very easily and quickly disheartened."

That may explain why she sounds mostly bemused by her enhanced screen profile at the moment, not just as Queen Victoria in *Mrs Brown* but as James Bond's no-nonsense boss "M" in the two most recent instalments of the enduring cinema franchise. Previously, her film work had consisted mostly of supporting roles in *Henry V*, *34 Charing Cross Road*

and *A Room with a View*, among others, and about two seconds in the Kenneth Branagh *Hamlet*.

"I'm squeamish about seeing myself anyway on screen. I don't like it. A friend saw *Tomorrow Never Dies* and said, 'Do be prepared: your face is bigger than your house'." The Bond film, Dench says, is proof positive of what the theatre offers that all too many films do not. "It's not witty, I mean, it's wonderful for chases and all those things, but somehow you long for real lines."

Has *Mrs Brown* changed things? "Only that lots and lots of people have written to me saying, 'I've never heard of you; will you send me a biography,'" smiles Dench, aware that even an arthouse film originally intended for television will reach more people than a lifetime on stage ever could. In the spring she will play another queen — this time Elizabeth I — in *Shakespeare in Love*, the new film directed by Mrs Brown's John Madden from a Tom Stoppard script. Gwyneth Paltrow is the star. After that it's back to the theatre to star in a revival of Eduardo De Filippo's *Filumena* for Peter Hall.

"If it's a question of film or theatre, theatre will probably always win out," says Dench, who greets talk of Oscars with a healthy scepticism. "An award is lovely but it means the next day you've got to do better: could do better. I think it means."

■ *Amy's View* opens on Monday at the Aldwych Theatre (0171-466 0004)

Rome fans its golden flame

OPERA

La fiamma

by Hugo De Ana

NO COMPOSER apart from Palestrina is more closely associated with Rome than Ottorino Respighi, who spent his most productive years in the Italian capital and died there in 1936. His musical evocations of the city in *The Fountains of Rome*, *The Pines of Rome* and *Roman Festivals* are justly celebrated, but they have also eclipsed the rest of his output. Though his nine operas do not deserve a place in the regular repertoire it was appropriate that the Teatro dell'Opera should remember the composer by opening its new season with *La fiamma*.

Premiered in the same theatre in 1934, *La fiamma* was a coda to the great but dying school of Italian operatic composition, not a forward-looking masterpiece. But with all the musical and dramatic care that Rome has now lavished on the work, it makes a satisfying evening in the opera house, something it failed to do when it was the flop of this year's Westford Festival. There it was badly staged and conducted as if it were mock Puccini. In Rome it found a conductor with real feeling for the music and a director able to mould its creaky plot, a mixture of superstition, lust and retribution.

The splendid Teatro dell'Opera Orchestra and Chorus performed excitingly, enabling Gianluigi Gelmetti to conduct with sweep and passion. All the influences — from Monteverdi to Wagner — were

absorbed into a compelling whole, and Respighi's striking orchestration shone through.

Hugo De Ana's new production, in his own designs, is visually stunning. The setting, Byzantine Ravenna, is evoked in the golden mosaics that cover what looks like the inside of a huge upturned arch. The stage is uncluttered — just a few giant symbols of Byzantine art, including a looming cross in the finale as judgment is passed on the anti-heroine, Silvana, accused of adultery and witchcraft.

The opera demands a soprano with great vocal presence as Silvana — the "flame" of the title — and Nelly Miricioiu supplies that in abundance. She spins long sensuous lines, hardening the voice only for expressive effect. The baritone David Pittman-Jennings is strong as her husband, the search of Ravenna, and Gabriel Sade gives a decent performance as the stepson she loves, though his tenor seems too dark for the role. Mariana Pencheva as Eudisia, the mother-in-law from hell, and Olga Romanko in the small part of Monica, stand out in a large ensemble cast from depth.

JOHN ALLISON

Ska-ed for life

POP

W11

MORE than 30 years ago John Mayall was the pivotal figure in the British blues boom when his legendary band the Bluesbreakers gave a start to the likes of Eric Clapton, Peter Green and Mick Taylor. His son, Gaz Mayall, was brought up on the musical legacy of Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf, but his first love soon became another imported black sound, the raw beat of Jamaican ska, the precursor of modern reggae.

Today Gaz Mayall has become a passionate ambassador for British ska. He has led the Trojans for the past ten years, runs his own ska record label, and on his nights off presides at Britain's leading ska club in London's Soho. Earlier this year he produced *Ska Island*, a celebratory compilation featuring bands not only from the Caribbean but from California, Germany and Japan.

In Britain the scene is possessed of an undeniable energy. In a party atmosphere the seven-piece Trojans played a mixture of traditional rhythms, some audacious Gaelic ska, some reggae and some dub, and even a touch of Muddy Waters. Mayall's voice is an ordinary instrument but he makes up for it

with his showmanship. Musically the band was at its best when Mayall played the melodic in conjunction with the Trojans' brass section.

Mayall argues that ska is more versatile than the blues and closer to jazz in its ability to keep renewing itself. His inspiration comes in part from the 1960s Jamaican ska pioneers such as the Skatalites and Prince Buster, but the 3-Tone movement of the early 1980s also looms large, particularly on numbers such as *The Great British Skiff*, a quirkily home-grown tribute to Jamaica's favourite herb which could easily have been a Madness song.

What Mayall represents is ska's third wave, a revival which many of his youngest followers only remember from the record collections of their big brothers and sisters. It is none the worse for that, for ska, like the blues, is now a classic form that will never sound dated.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

■ The original sculptures from the gates of the old Bedlam hospital described by Richard Cork on these pages yesterday are on show in the Science Museum's *Surprising Regions of the Mind* exhibition (0171-938 8212) until May 4, and not at the Museum of London's exhibition.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

JASON BROOKS

Age: 29.

Profession: Painter.

In demand: His big photorealistic portraits have just brought him his first one-man show at London's Envision gallery, and a prize in this year's John Moores Liverpool Exhibition. He teaches at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education, where he himself studied from 1988 to 1991. In 1994 he was British Telecom artist-in-residence, which entailed painting an enormous work in Waterloo station.

Has he always painted in his present style? "I've arrived at it gradually. In earlier phases my painting has been quite colourful and quite complex. At the moment I am working entirely in black-and-white, and using a single photograph."

Method: "I take head-on, close-up photographs of people I know well. Then I blow them up, square them off, and transfer the image to canvas or paper. I use acrylic applied with an airbrush, and work on the image as it is built up with a variety of weird tools to rub out or scratch the surface."

Are the paintings based on a screen-printed original, like a vintage Warhol? "No. Perversely perhaps, I start at the other end. My images are entirely painted. That is the point of the squaring off. I translate the original image into paint square by square, working down bar by bar from the top."

What is the point of making paintings that look just like photographs? "I want to make something which is at once maximal and minimal. I like my personal input to appear minimal until you look very closely. When you do you see the paradox that the sheer making of the painting has to have been very labour-intensive, and yet, like a photograph, it all seems to have happened in one tiny moment of time. Also, as you move closer to the picture it is abstracted to the point of becoming a painting which is only about painting."

Ambitions: "I would really like to do what I am doing now, but on the scale of a Cinemascope. I would love to see what that did to both the reality and the illusion of the thing."

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR



Ros Drinkwater meets Paul Bowler, the Olympic gymnast who became a star of the spectacular Cirque du Soleil

From five rings to happiness cubed

As a small boy Paul Bowler's idea of entertainment was to fling himself head first down a flight of stairs, to the consternation of his granny. While most small boys grow out of such bizarre inclinations, Bowler has achieved the distinction of turning his party piece into a career, not once, but twice, first as a British Olympic gymnast, and now as the Cube Man, star turn of Alegria, Cirque du Soleil's latest spectacular production.

For anyone who has been on Mars, Cirque du Soleil is the daddy of New Circus, a Surrealist concept that catapults the genre into the 21st century. Since 1984 it has grown from a handful of French Canadian street performers to a \$30 million industry employing 1,250 people on three continents. Its scouts scour the world for talent, and its Website issues the tempting invitation "Why not run away and join the circus?"

Bowler says: "Eight minutes can seem like a very, very long time."

Born in Manchester, he had his first taste of gymnastics at the age of seven. By 16 he was one of Britain's top three gymnasts, going on to represent his country, not least at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. When he failed to qualify for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, he was devastated. "I was completely lost," he says. "I had never looked beyond gymnastics. All I could think was — do I want to train 30 hours a week just to fail? It was time to call it a day."

Teaching gymnastics seemed his best option. "I taught for 12 months, 1,300 kids a week in classes of 30. They were inner-city kids, the kind who have problems in the classroom and do brilliantly in the gym. I could really identify with them. The only regret I have now is leaving them."

Bowler, now 30, would probably have remained a gym teacher if fate had not intervened in the shape of an advertisement in *The Stage* that a friend sent to him: "Tumblers wanted, no experience necessary." Bowler attended an open audition, and his video was sent to Cirque du Soleil's Montreal headquarters. Artistic director Andrew Watson recalls watching it. "He was fast, strong, open,

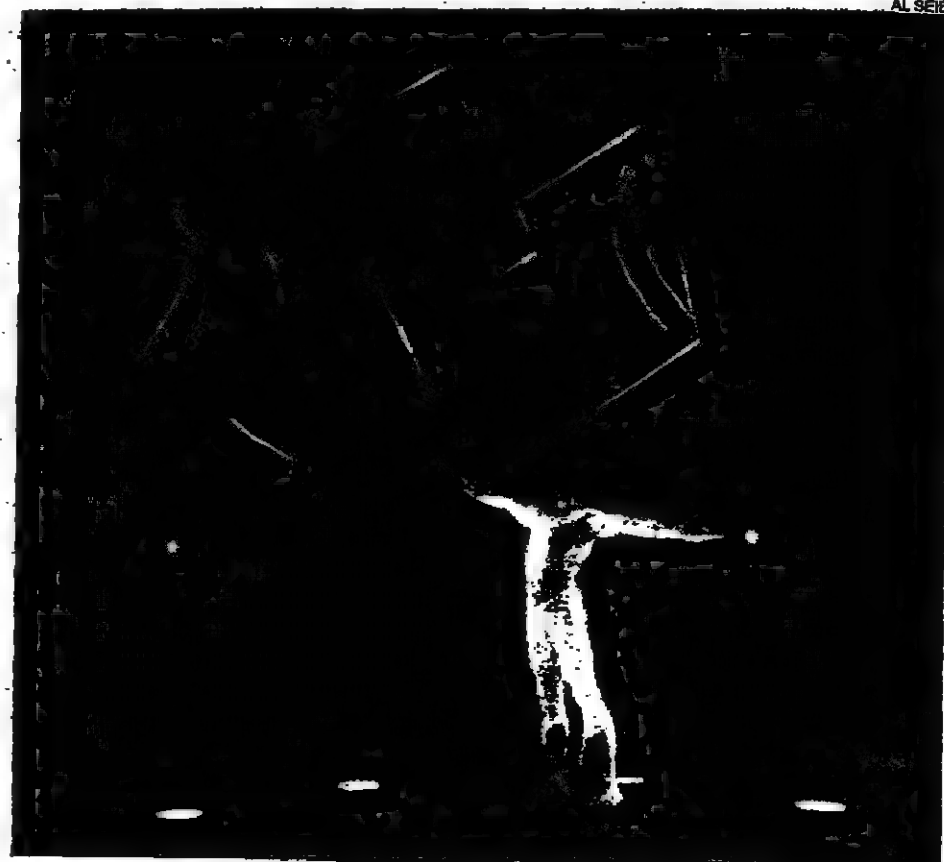
humble and hungry to learn. In other words, we knew we'd found a star."

Bowler was put on the next flight to Las Vegas to meet Micha Matorin, the legendary Russian acrobat who created the act he now performs. "It never entered my head that they would offer me a solo role. I arrived jet-lagged. All I recall is two handles descending from the flies and Micha giving me quiet, firm instructions — muscle up, which means get above the rings, go to handstand. Suddenly, I was 40ft above the stage. I tell you, Mr Macho from Manchester was pretty scared."

"Does the height bother you?" Micha asked. "No, I lied. 'Good,' he said, 'we have no time to worry about that.'"

The same night I watched the show and found it mind-blowing. I then had two months of intensive training, five hours a day. In addition to the technical aspects, I had to tackle the whole idea of expressing myself emotionally, learning to let the movements come from inside. Looking back, I'm glad I didn't know just how much I had to learn."

Last March, three hours before his debut in Amsterdam, Bowler pulled a shoulder muscle so badly he could hardly move. "I couldn't comb my hair, let alone manipulate the cube. I had all these



Paul Bowler and cube: his act lasts what seems to him a "very, very long" eight minutes

wonderful good luck cards from the kids I'd taught, and I couldn't do a thing. That was my lowest point. If I can't exercise, I'm like a caged animal. So after five days I was going crazy. I decided to try to jog and found myself next door to the circus in what had been the old Olympic stadium. Suddenly, I could hear the crowd next door, 2,500 people cheering the cir-

cus finale. The combination of that and being in the very stadium where Olympic heroes had triumphed somehow inspired me, and gave me the will to go through the pain barrier. Within a week I was in the show."

Bowler is refreshingly uncool about his new success. "I've got the perfect job," he says. "Inside I've always been a performer, like always."

craved attention, and now I feel I'm part of a vast, wonderful machine that churns out happiness and perfection. The shoulders determine now long a career I can have as a performer, but I plan to stay with Cirque perhaps in an administrative role. The more I see, the more I learn."

Alegria, by Cirque du Soleil, opens at the Albert Hall, London SW1 (0171-539 8212) on Jan 7

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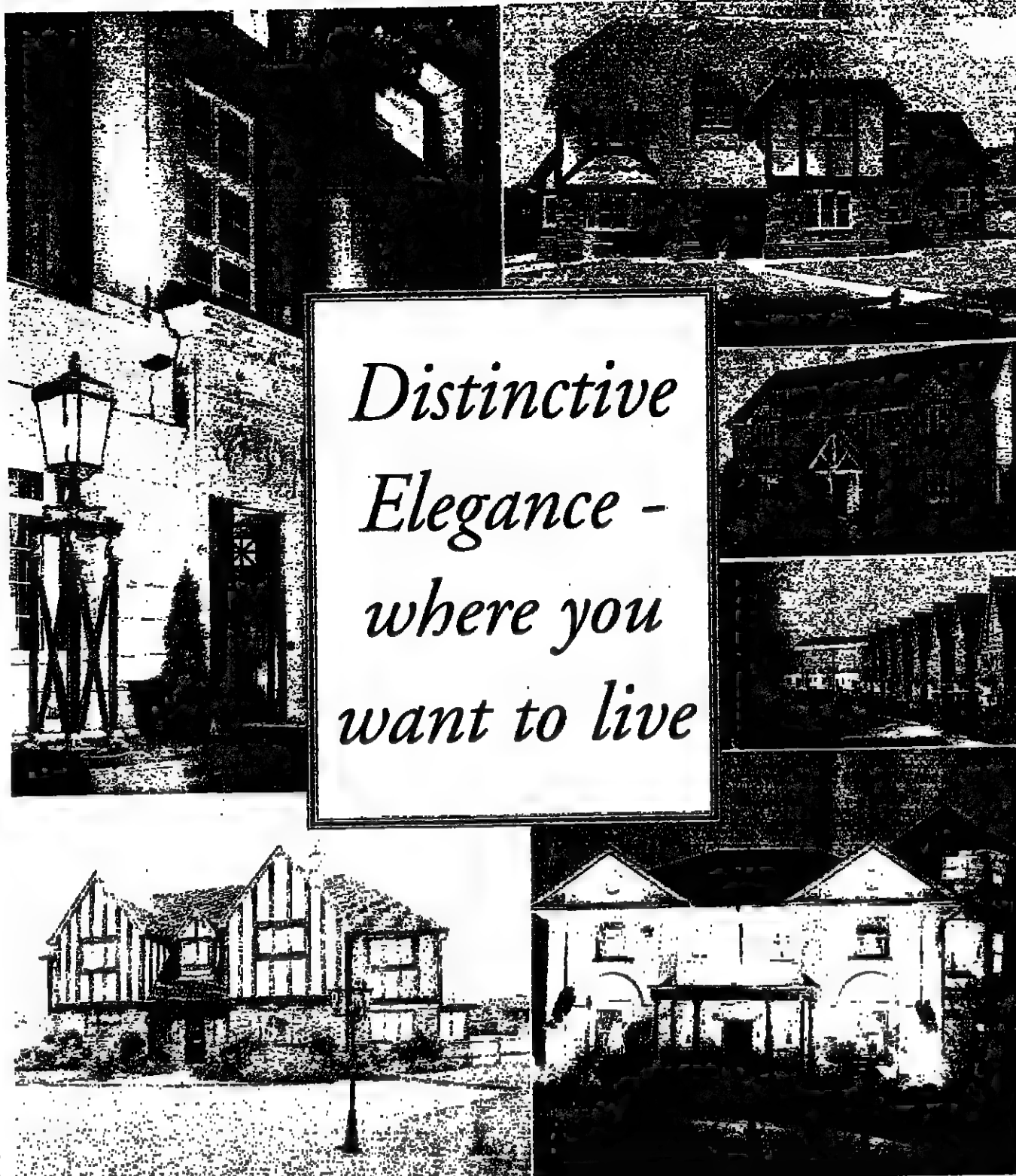
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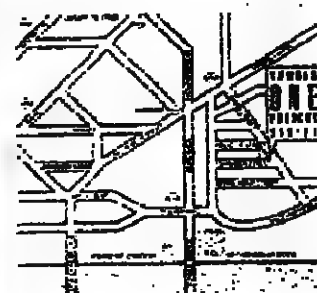
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TENNIS: NEW GENERATION LOOKS TO THE STARS

British game set to benefit from rivals

It has only taken 20 years of hard work, but tennis has finally become an overnight success. The sport has hardly made page news since 1977, when Virginia Wade won Wimbledon, but these days the story of the rise and rise of Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman has forced its way into the spotlight as Glenn Hoddle's road to France and Manchester United's European dream.

The effect has been spectacular. Five years ago, few would have imagined that a British player would have won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award, never mind beaten another into second place, but there was Rusedski, clutching his trophy and sharing a joke with the runner-up, Henman. The award came as a direct result of Rusedski not winning the US Open; who knows what will happen should one of them actually win a grand slam title.

They are fine ambassadors for the sport. Both are young, clean-cut, happy to sign an autograph, and say the right few words at the right time. Those in the business of spreading the word and encouraging youngsters to take up the game could not ask for more. Up at the sharp end, where the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is trying to get more school-children on court playing the game, the response has been impressive.

Alix Ramsay examines the effect of the rise and rise of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski

These days everyone knows who the top two players are and wants to be like them.

The knock-on effect has pushed more people through the turnstiles at tournaments. When Rusedski returned from the US Open, his first match at the Samsung Open in Bournemouth was sold out; even the national championships in Telford — not known as one of the most riveting events on the calendar — has had a healthy upturn in ticket sales over the last couple of years as Henman and Rusedski have battled for the honours.

At such events, their followers split neatly into two distinct groups, with the girls attracted to Henman and the boys admiring Rusedski because of his thundering service and nervous energy. To the young and the enthusiastic, Tim is cute and Greg is cool.

It is ironic that after years of trying to change the public perception of tennis, and move it away from the elitist, middle-class, moon-eyed image, the LTA now finds itself

with a role model who is exactly that. Henman comes from a well-to-do family of lawyers from Oxfordshire.

Rusedski is a different type of leader, and every time he speaks it is apparent that he is not a Home Counties boy. While his detractors point to his Canadian roots, however, his followers do not care. After all, Chelsea supporters are hard pushed to find a Londoner among the mix of French, Italian and Dutch footballers at Stamford Bridge, so why should a chap with a Canadian accent and a British passport be a problem?

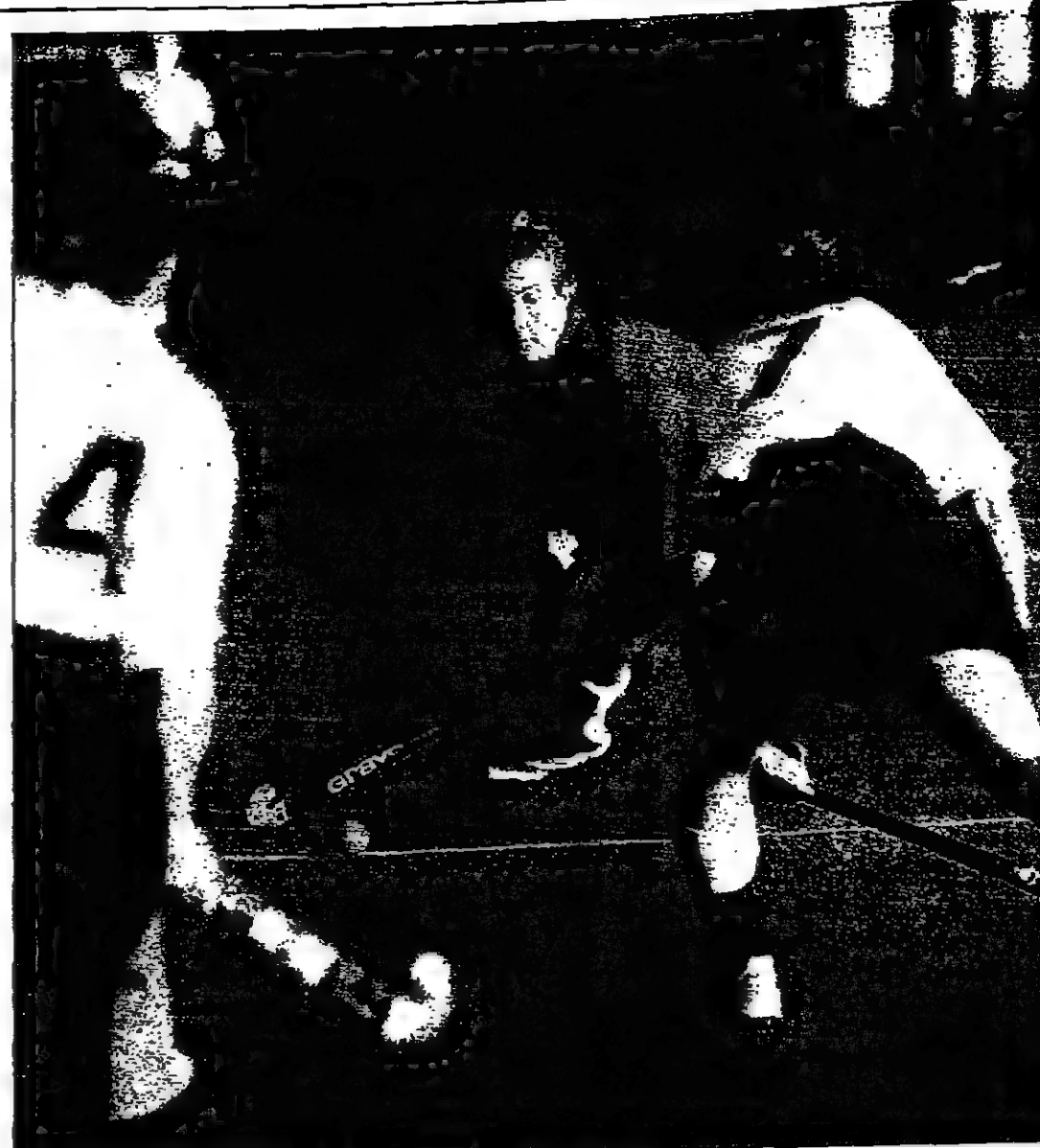
While the professional rivalry between Henman and Rusedski is intense, off-court they seem to rub along well enough. They may not be bosom buddies but they get on as well as any work colleagues, all of which makes Britain's Davis Cup prospects look healthier. In the Ukraine last summer they joined forces to win the vital doubles tie and push Britain to an unlikely victory. Such a keen but friendly rivalry is one that the LTA is keen to reinforce.

But at the Westway Club in Shepherd's Bush, West London, where the young hopefuls are serious about their tennis, the neat image does not wash. Many of the young players, who come from a broad range of social and cultural backgrounds, have met Henman and Rusedski on several occasions and while they warm to Rusedski's friendly manner, they are not prepared to follow either slavishly. They admire Rusedski's serve but realise that Henman is mentally tough; technically, they aim to copy the Rusedski thunderbolt and the Henman ground stroke.

According to Ronnie Maxwell, head coach at the Westway Club, the two men are a source of inspiration to his students. Additionally, he said, "meeting Tim and Greg gives them the added drive to work harder."

"Tim is not quite so good at the PR side as Greg. Greg is more outgoing and the kids like that. But Greg is also higher in the rankings, and the children are clever enough to notice that."

Despite their different backgrounds, the kids here still recognise Tim and Greg as role models. They respect them and appreciate what they have done but they still see Sampras and Hingis as the elite. "In tennis, it seems, you have got to be good to be liked but you have got to win something big to be adored."



Wright shows the menacing form that made her top scorer in the under-21 territorial tournament

Wright's goals help Midlands to power to their sixth title

By CATRY HARRIS

SALLY WRIGHT maintained her sequence of scoring in every match when she converted a penalty stroke in the second minute to help the Midlands to secure a 100 per cent record when they beat the West 2-0 to win the women's under-21 regional tournament at Milton Keynes yesterday.

Their sixth triumph since the competition started in 1985-86, is one fewer than the East, the only other team to have captured the title. Missing Lucilla Wright, Kerry Moore and Rachel Walker, who are all resting, the Midlands' superior strength in depth proved decisive.

Sally Wright's powerful striking at penalty corners helped the England Under-21 defender to collect five goals in the tournament

and finish as the leading marksman. Other territories, complying with the ruling that no player on lottery funding or involved in senior squad training was allowed to play, were also forced to field weakened teams. However, the England coach, Maggie Souyave, does not believe the event was devalued.

Souyave said: "I wanted to look at as many players as possible at another level and it gives some who would never have had the opportunity to prove themselves. Realistically, there will probably only be a handful but there may be a few on the fringe of international hockey who have staked a claim."

Needing only to draw against

the North, Wright gave her side the perfect launching pad when she was on target from the penalty spot after her own singing drive from a penalty corner was illegally stopped on the line. Louise Turvey, a Birmingham University student and one of four Under-21 internationals in the Midlands squad, added a second 15 minutes later to put her team in charge.

The East clinched second place after Lizzie Aldous and Tanya Barnard scored in a 2-1 win against the North, and Barnard hit the only goal of the match against the South. Despite losing every match, the South can take heart from the fact that their under-16 team are national champions.

FINAL POSITIONS: 1, Midlands 12pts; 2, East 7; 3, North 6; 4, West 4; 5, South 0.

ATHLETICS

Kipketer pulls out with visa problem

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE withdrawal of Wilson Boit Kipketer, the 3,000 metres steeplechase champion, and Iwan Thomas, the British 400 metres record-holder, kept organisers of the Co Durham international cross country races busy trying to fill the void today.

Boit Kipketer and his management team failed to renew his visa for entry to Britain, forcing him to pull out of Saturday's main race. Then Thomas scratched from the invitation 3.7km race, adding to the organisers' problems.

Thomas had agreed to run after a spur-of-the-moment social bet with the miler, Tony Whiteman. "I did it a little bit as a dare at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards," Thomas said before having to pull out yesterday because of injury.

He added: "Tony said he would lap me and I fell for the bait, telling him there was no way he could. I can tell you my coach isn't too pleased about me competing."

He has been saved a journey into unknown depths of stamina — and the long trip from his Southampton base to the North East — because he turned an ankle in training yesterday morning.

Nigel Gough, the race director, was annoyed after discovering Boit Kipketer would not be running — and the reason why — but he was more understanding about Thomas. "Bearing in mind that he has far greater priorities next summer at the European championships and Commonwealth Games, I know he has made the right decision," Gough said.

The organisers, though, were amazed to learn Boit Kipketer does not have a valid visa. Knowing that the Kenyan ran in Madrid the week-end before Christmas and another competition planned in Spain, Gough assumed there would be no immigration problems.

However, yesterday Boit Kipketer's manager sent a fax message saying the athlete, despite being constantly reminded to do so, had failed to renew his visa.



Rusedski and Henman celebrate their Davis Cup triumph in Kiev

Court of Appeal

Transaction attracts stamp duty

Parlin (Hatfield) Ltd v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Lord Justice Roch, Lord Justice Millett and Sir John Balfour

[Judgment December 4]

Transactions executed outside the United Kingdom for the sale of commercial property that consisted of a declaration of trust by the vendor in favour of the purchaser and followed by a transfer of the legal estate in the property in the United Kingdom, did not avoid payment of stamp duty.

It was payable on the transfer and was to be assessed by reference to the purchase price recited in the declaration of trust as having been paid to the vendor. The evidence as to the price was not inadmissible merely because it was contained in an instrument that had remained unstamped.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by way of case stated brought by the purchaser, Parlin (Hatfield) Ltd, formerly Parlin (Hatfield) Ltd, from the decision of Mr Justice Lindsay in May 23, 1989, (1990) STC 933, upholding a determination by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue and assessing the duty chargeable on the transfer at £372,230.

Mr Patrick Soares for the purchaser, Mr Michael Furness for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that in December 1983 the pur-

chaser agreed to purchase the equitable interest in land at Bishop's Square, Hatfield, for £372,230.

Completion of the purchase took place on June 30, 1984 by two documents: first a declaration of trust executed by the vendor in favour of the purchaser which recited that the purchase price had been paid to him, and second, the transfer of the property to the purchaser.

The contract for sale and the declaration of trust were executed and retained outside the United Kingdom. The transfer was delivered to the Revenue for adjudication together with photocopies of the declaration of trust and contract of sale. The only relevant fact which could not be ascertained from the recitals to the transfer was the amount of the consideration payable for the sale. The purchaser claimed that the transfer was stampable at 50p.

Section 1 of the 1981 Act provided for stamp duty to be charged on instruments of "conveyance or transfer on sale". Sections 54 and 59(1) defined such instruments as including contracts for the sale of any equitable interest in any property.

Once the commissioners were satisfied that they had the information necessary to enable them to assess the duty (see sections 5 and 12 of the Act) they had a statutory duty to do so. In so doing they were

not limited to the information set out in the instrument or to evidence which was admissible in a court of law.

The contract for sale, declaration of trust and the transfer were all instruments relating to property situated in the United Kingdom and accordingly could not be given in evidence or be made available for any purpose unless duly stamped: see section 14(4). However, the instruments were not nullities. Although untrue to do so, a person could accept an unstamped instrument if he wished.

The court was in a difficult position. It could not receive an unstamped document in evidence. But that did not preclude the court from resolving disputes of fact without reference to the inadmissible evidence.

The Revenue had assessed the transfer to duty as a "conveyance on sale". It was plainly right to do so. A transfer to a purchaser of the legal estate in property contracted to be sold was a conveyance on sale notwithstanding that the beneficial interest in the property had already passed to the transferee under a preceding contract for sale and the whole of the purchase consideration had been paid before the transfer.

The Revenue was able to ascertain from the recitals to the transfer all the necessary information except the consideration for the sale. It could ascertain that from the copies of the contract and

the declaration of trust. The fact that it was supplied in the form of copies of unstamped instruments did not prevent it from taking cognisance of it. And on appeal the court was also entitled to look at the documents since they formed part of the case.

The purchaser was misconceived in arguing that section 14 of the Act prevented the Revenue and the court from looking at the copies because they constituted secondary evidence of unstamped documents and that without those documents there was no admissible evidence of the amount of the consideration.

An alternative argument raised by the purchaser was that if the documents could be received they showed that it was the declaration of trust which was the instrument which constituted the conveyance on sale and that as the property could not be conveyed twice over, the transfer was not a conveyance on sale.

The purchaser's primary argument was based on the untenable proposition that the Revenue was bound to disregard information that the purchaser was bound to, and did supply.

Its alternative argument had been knocked on the head almost 40 years ago in *Oughtred v IRC* (1960) AC 206.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH and Sir John Balfour agreed.

Solicitors: Goudens; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Mr Edward Davidson, QC and Mr Stephen Hancock for the second and third defendants; the first defendant in person; Mr Nicholas Yell for the second plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that in 1993 the first and second defendants approached the second plaintiff, who had capital available, to open an Indian restaurant in Newbury, the first defendant to be the manager, the second defendant to be the chef and the first plaintiff, who was not a partner but an employee, to be the second chef.

The third defendant, experienced in the restaurant trade and proprietor of another restaurant, was brought into the project, and he obtained the lease of premises owned by British Gas.

At the end of October the second plaintiff and the third defendant opened a joint bank account, describing themselves as "partners in a business called The Nawab" to be set up on December 1, 1993.

Building works to convert the premises were to be paid from that account. All moneys paid into the account were provided by the second plaintiff, save for a few payments by the first plaintiff, his brother. All payments out were to the building contractors or for

other works or services to establish the restaurant.

Having approached a bank in December to borrow money to buy the freehold of the premises, the bank manager was informed they were partners and that they had spent between them some £51,000 on the project. The bank undertook to lend the second plaintiff and the first and third defendants up to £60,000, the intention being to open the restaurant on December 1.

The freehold was acquired by the third defendant at auction and, after, it being agreed that the second plaintiff and the third defendant would each subscribe half the 20 per cent of the purchase price not covered by the bank loan.

Prior to the restaurant's opening on February 14, 1994, furniture and equipment was purchased; the restaurant was advertised in the local press, and a contract entered into for laundry.

Although the second plaintiff had difficulty in finding his half of the 20 per cent, completion of the sale took place on January 21. Because of the difficulties, including some involving the building works, the plaintiffs and defendants fell out.

The judge had found that the relationship between the second plaintiff and the defendants was terminated by the former's solicitors' letter of January 25. He did not doubt that a business existed between two or more persons by December 1, 1993, and concluded

from the evidence that there was a partnership, although it was difficult to identify the parties' interests and liability in such partnership.

Mr Davidson contended that the business in the present case could not have been carried on until the parties had commenced to trade as a partnership.

He relied, *inter alia*, on *Lindley on Partnership* (10th edition (1935) p16), *Lindley & Banks on Partnership* (17th edition (1995) p13), *Dickinson v Velby* (1829) 10 B & C 128, 141 and on his cases by analogy: *Connop Coal Co Ltd v Inland Revenue Commissioners* (1919) 12 TC 31, *Birmingham & District Cattle By-Products Co Ltd v Inland Revenue Commissioners* (1919) 12 TC 92, *Kirk and Randall Ltd v Dunn* (1924) 8 TC 663 and *Inland Revenue Commissioners v Williamson* (1928) 14 TC 335.

His Lordship said that the court's task was to identify the business that it was intended or had been agreed that the partnership should conduct and then decide whether that business was being carried on by the alleged partners at the material time.

It was the carrying on of that business and not the necessary preparation for it that had to be established. The moment of commencement of the carrying on of the partnership business was probably easier to decide than the moment when the parties started to prepare to run such a business.

The error which the judge made was to conclude from the purposes

for which the second plaintiff subscribed money, from the representations made to the bank manager, and the joint liability of the second plaintiff and the third defendant arising from such terms as the laundry contract and contributions towards equipment expenditure that they were partners, and that therefore a partnership existed.

On the evidence, in his Lordship's view, the point had not been reached by January 25, 1994, when it could be said that the restaurant business was being carried on by the parties at the premises.

At that time there was nothing for the first defendant to manage and there was no role for the second defendant to play. The first plaintiff to fulfil his role, what had happened prior to that date, and certainly all that happened prior to December 1, 1993, was preparatory to setting up of a restaurant business.

LORD JUSTICE THORPE, agreeing, said that Mr Davidson demonstrated convincingly that the law had always drawn a clear distinction between partnerships which fell within section (1) of the 1890 Act, and contemplated partnerships which did not.

The passage in the 10th edition of *Lindley on Partnership* which maintained good law and was admirably clear.

LORD JUSTICE BOSTON delivered a dissenting judgment.

Solicitors: Saf Awan, Luton; Trevor Jenkin, Reading.

Company inspectors' side letter admissible

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Anderson and Others

Before Mr Justice Cresswell [Judgment November 20]

Company directors in disqualification proceedings could not obtain an order for inspection under Order 24, rule 13 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of notes, drafts and internal memoranda written by inspectors of a company appointed under Part XIV of the Companies Act 1985 while they were preparing their report. However, the court would order inspection of a side letter written on the same day as the report in which the inspectors expressed a view that conduct of a director did not merit disqualification.

Mr Justice Cresswell, sitting as an additional judge of the Chancery Division, so held on motions in disqualification proceedings due to start in May 1986 issued by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry against former directors of Astra Holdings plc. The four directors against whom proceedings were being continued were John Anderson, Christopher Williams, Geraldine, Geraldine Williams and James Robertson Cro-

zier Miller. Only Mr James appeared on the present application.

Mr Roger Kaye, QC and Mr Mark Cunningham for the secretary of state; Mr Richard Sheldon, QC and Ms Felicity Toubie for Mr James.

MR JUSTICE CRESSWELL said that on August 16, 1990 Mr Colin Rimer, QC and Mr John White, FCA, were appointed inspectors of Astra Holdings plc under Part XIV of the 1985 Act. Their report was published on June 17, 1993.

The contents of their report, both as to fact and as to the opinion of the inspectors, was admissible in the present proceedings by virtue of section 441 of the 1985 Act.

The secretary of state also sought an order that a side letter from the secretary to the inspectors to the deputy inspector of companies of the same date as the report, in which the inspectors expressed their views on disqualification, should not be produced for inspection pursuant to Order 24, rule 13.

Was it just or equitable that a respondent to an application for a disqualification order under section 8 of the 1985 Act should be expected to conduct his defence in proceedings where the inspectors' report was admissible under section 441, without being told that for reasons set out in a side letter to the report, the inspectors expressed the view that conduct on the part of the respondent director considered in the report was not such as to justify the conclusion that the director was unfit to be concerned in the management of a company?

Disqualification proceedings were brought for the protection of the public. The proceedings had in many respects much more in common with criminal proceedings than with civil litigation. In his Lordship's opinion, the

side letter should be disclosed as necessary to the fair conduct of the proceedings against certain of the respondent directors, including Mr James. Further, the letter was plainly discoverable under Order 24 as relevant.

Production was necessary for disposing fairly of the cause or matter and for savings costs. Certain matters set out in the letter might provide to certain respondents a guide as to how they might conduct their defence and thereby save costs.

Mr James was in receipt of legal aid and other respondents were in person. It would be for the trial judge to decide what use, if any, could be made at trial of the contents of the side letter and nothing in this ruling was intended to be the hands of the trial judge.

His Lordship confined himself to saying that the disclosure of the side letter was necessary to ensure a fair prosecution and that it was discoverable and should be produced for inspection under Order 24, rule 13 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield.

Regina v Wiltshire County Council, Ex parte Lazard Brothers and Co Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Dyson [Judgment November 24]

Where a local authority had resolved to make but had not yet made an order under section 53(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as to the status of a route, that resolution could be judicially reviewed, although paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the 1981 Act excluded such a remedy when an order had been made.

Mr Justice Dyson so held in the Queen's Bench Division in granting the application of Lazard Brothers and Co Ltd and Paul Pellum for certiorari to quash Wiltshire County Council's resolution of September 18, 1996 to make an order under section 53(2) of the 1981 Act designating a route in the village of Manningford Bohune as a byway open to all traffic.

The local authority had resolved to make the order but the applicants, who owned a farm at Manningford Bohune, obtained an injunction to stop them from doing so.

Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the 1981 Act provides: "(1) If any person is aggrieved by an order which has taken effect and desires to question its validity on the ground that it is not within the powers of section 53 or 54... he may... make an application to the High Court under this paragraph. (2) On any such application the High Court may... quash the order."

"(3) Except as provided by this paragraph, the validity of an order shall not be questioned by any legal proceedings whatsoever."

Mr George Laurence, QC and Miss Rose Cuthbert for the applicants; Mr Richard Gordon, QC, for the local authority.

MR JUSTICE DYSON said that the court did have jurisdiction to entertain the application in the

instant case. Prima facie, a party was entitled to have recourse to the courts.

The existence of a statutory remedy of public inquiry by an inspector and statutory appeal thereafter, was relevant to the question of whether relief should be refused. It did not go to jurisdiction.

Mr Gordon's argument involved the proposition that, where a council was threatening to commit a plain error of law, as was the position in this case, an aggrieved party could not seek the intervention of the court.

Instead he or she was obliged to embark on the often time-consuming and costly procedure of a public inquiry, in which objects could make representations, possibly involving detailed actual investigations, with the risk that the inspector might repeat the local authority's error of law.

Solicitors: MacFarlane, Mr Michael Holder, Trowbridge.

Decision can be reviewed despite appeal provision

Regina v Wiltshire County Council, Ex parte Lazard Brothers and Co Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Dyson [Judgment November 24]

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CRICKET: WARNE'S THREAT BLUNTED AFTER CAPTURE OF TWO EARLY WICKETS

Kallis leads rearguard action

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TAKING heart from a maiden Test century from Jacques Kallis, South Africa held Australia to a draw in Melbourne yesterday, ending the final day at 273 for seven, 108 short of what was always an unlikely victory target.

Kallis, 22, who was playing in only his seventh Test match, occupied the crease for six hours while scoring 101. He rated his century as easily the highlight of a career that was interrupted in October when he was forced to fly home from the tour of Pakistan after undergoing an operation for appendicitis.

"It is a fantastic feeling to score a century for my country, especially to help save a Test match against Australia at the MCG," Kallis, who faced 279 balls and hit six boundaries, said. He added that his experience in the county championship with Middlesex last season had helped improve his technique.

"It was very satisfying for me to prove it is now good enough for me to bat for the equivalent of a whole day in a Test match," Kallis, who was averaging 16.62 at the start of his innings, said.

South Africa, resuming at 79 for one, soon found themselves 88 for three as Warne sent back Bacher for 39, with the aid of yet another brilliant slip catch by Mark Taylor, and bowled Cullinan before he had scored. After such a start, it seemed likely that Warne would bowl his side to victory, with time to spare, on a wearing pitch.

Kallis and Hansie Cronje, his captain, had other ideas, however, adding 123 before Cronje was caught at slip off Steve Waugh. It took a superb delivery from Paul Reiffel to account for Kallis, the ball nipping back to clip the off stump.

Although there were some nervous moments for South Africa in the final hour, Shaun Pollock and Lance Klusener held firm. Warne, who was responsible for 35 of the 92 overs bowled on the final day, finished with three for 97.

Kallis, who was hit in the ribs by a ball from Glenn McGrath just before tea, was particularly proud of the way that he had played the leg spinner. "He certainly bowled very well and he was un-



Taylor, the Australia captain, snatches a brilliant slip catch to send back Bacher off the bowling of Warne

lucky," Kallis said. "On other days, he might have taken more wickets. The ball was turning and he is one of the best bowlers in the world, but the whole side decided to be positive."

Taylor, the Australia captain, believed that his side had dominated the opening encounter of the three-match series. "We kept our noses in front for the first four days and there was only one team with any hope of winning the match on the final day," he said. He acknowledged that South Africa's confidence would have been lifted by avoiding defeat, a view shared by Cronje.

"This will certainly boost

our morale," Cronje said. "Our attitude from the first ball of the innings was to play naturally, rather than just try to play safe." Paying tribute to Kallis, for whom he forecast a long career at Test level,

Cronje said: "I don't think too much bothers him. He's very much like Ernie Els when he gets going, just very keen on doing a job and doing it well."

Michael Bevan, dropped

from the Australia team for the second time during last summer's tour of England, when he was unable to handle the short-pitched ball, has been recalled to the squad for the second Test, which starts at Sydney on Friday. He replaces Andrew Bichel, who was the twelfth man at Sydney.

Bevan, a middle-order batsman and left-arm wrist spinner, is likely to be included in the final XI at Sydney if the pitch seems likely to help the spinners, as it usually does on this ground. For the same reason, South Africa have put Paul Adams, their unorthodox left-arm, on standby to partner Pat Symcox.

SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 309 (R T Ponting 108, S R Waugh 86, P L Symcox 4 for 69). Second Innings 257 (P R Reiffel 79 not out, M A Taylor 56, A A Donald 6 for 89)	
SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 186 (G Kirsten 55)	
Second Innings	
G Kirsten b Reiffel	0
A M Bacher c Taylor b Warne	39
21 Kallis b Reiffel	101
D J Cullinan b Warne	0
W J Cronje c Taylor b S R Waugh	70
S M McMillen c Taylor b Warne	15
S M Pollock not out	15

Edwards offers hope of brighter future

SARAH POTTER



got through it and it became easier towards the end."

The final stages of England's unsuccessful title defence meant coping with a Christmas away from home. Edwards had only just celebrated her birthday when the most evocative day was upon her. "When I got up, it didn't really feel like Christmas," she said, "but later on Mum and Dad phoned and then my Grandma and Aunties and I think it did hit me. I felt a bit homesick."

The Boxing Day match meant that the team celebrated Christmas a day early. The hotel in Madras had decorated a tree and the team exchanged gifts. "The hotel did turkey for our meal. They tried their best and it was quite nice — it just wasn't the same."

By her own admission, Edwards is a fussy eater and thought she might fall prey to "Delhi belly". However, all the England players managed to stay fit. "A lot of the South Africans have been really ill," she said. "We've been careful and all come through OK. For me, the food has been one of the things I've really enjoyed. I hate curries and the truth is I haven't even had to smell one. I've eaten well. The chips and nan bread have been lovely."

Home cooking has suddenly become a mouthwatering prospect. "Mum is going to cook me a proper Christmas dinner when I get back and I can hardly wait," she said. "My parents are getting to the airport at five o'clock, even though the plane isn't due to land until six."

Edwards is reluctant to talk about her successes — the 173 against Ireland or her unexpected haul of wickets — but she will tell you that her biggest disappointment was getting a duck against Australia. Her parents had phoned and told her to "sock it to the Aussies". England could not and now Australia are world champions. "I just want to have another go at beating them," she said. "It is a good thing, then, that it is the old enemy who visit British shores next summer."

me, but it has made me feel sad, I wasn't expecting it to be so bad — it's hard to describe just how poor it is in some places we've been to."

The England itinerary meant that the party travelled to more places than they would have liked. "Looking back on it all, I'm not sure how we fitted it in," Edwards said. "We've had three seven-hour coach trips, lots of flights and an all-night train journey. After the early games, we had to travel through the night straight after a match and it's difficult to get any sleep. Only having one day's rest between matches is unbelievably tiring, though we

That Edwards chose to remain in India is indicative of her enthusiasm, as much as her resilience. The showpiece tournament has attracted some adverse publicity because of the limited talent of the lesser teams, but that has not dented the experience for Edwards.

"I just wanted to be there when the teams walked out at Eden Gardens," she said. "I'm pretty upset because I know it could so easily have been us."

She was upset, too, to see the poverty, over-population and disease that any visitor to India is necessarily exposed to. No amount of preparation can soften the impact of this cultural shock.

"It's the thing that's struck me the most," she said. "It hit me very hard early on. A lot of the girls tried to protect

Edwards homesick

Australia set new standard

LAST YEAR, Sri Lanka changed the face of men's one-day international cricket. Australia's achievement in winning the women's World Cup during the past three weeks in India has been just as revolutionary.

Australia were stung by an unexpectedly poor World Cup in England in 1993. As Cathryn Fitzpatrick, the fast bowler, said after the final this week, in which Australia defeated New Zealand by five wickets: "All we've been bearing for the past four years is that England are world champions. We saw New Zealand go there and win 3-0; we knew we were a better team, but we never given a chance to prove it."

John Harmer, a former university lecturer in biomechanics, has coached Australia with the World Cup in mind for the past 3½ years. In addition to intensive work in fitness and fielding skills, he compiled personal videos for the players.

Everything about Harmer is deliberate and well-ordered and Australia's cricket reflects it. They are a professional outfit in every regard, other than payment.

England were probably the next best-prepared team here. In addition to coaches and a manager, England brought a sports scientist, a sports psychologist, for part of the trip, and a physiotherapist, whose duties went far beyond the alleviation of players' injured bodies. There was, in addition, substantial financial

Thrasy Petropoulos says the England women's cricket team can learn much from their World Cup passage to India

backing — so, why did England disappoint?

The answer is not particularly palatable for the Women's Cricket Association and England's cricket generally. First, England lacked the killer instinct that was so obviously the bedrock of Australia's success. In Vijayawada, England took only three Pakistan wickets in 47 overs; two days later in Hyderabad, Australia dismissed Pakistan for 27 in less than 14 overs.

Second — and, on the eve-

dence of this World Cup, this is a problem shared by all countries except Australia — a lack of experience at playing high-pressure cricket has been painfully obvious, especially when chasing targets.

This cost England their semi-final against New Zealand; the highest total chased successfully here was 164, by Australia against New Zealand.

Third, England suffered from a lack of athleticism in the field. It has become clear

that sides can no longer carry fielders in one-day cricket.

For all that, England are no a bad side. In Charlotte Edwards, they have a player of true talent and a free spirit — although she was visibly overawed against Australia in Nagpur, after which Fitzpatrick came up with one of the quotes of the tour: "From the moment she'd played the first ball three seconds late, she was out of my mind."

Jane Cassar is, arguably, the most valuable player in the side. Her wicketkeeping is immaculate, but she is wasted batting at No.5. Of the bowlers, Clare Taylor is still the most effective and most reliable, but she is 32 and England will be aware that a replacement must be groomed. Of the current stock, only Melissa Reynard looks to have the necessary heart and consistency.

Much has been made of the organisational chaos of this tournament and certainly England's travel requirements have been ludicrous, but two men's World Cups on the sub-continent have been similarly disorderly and such trials and tribulations go with the territory.

The next women's World Cup, in New Zealand in 2000, will be restricted to eight entrants, mercifully preventing the embarrassing slaughter of cricket innocents, such as Pakistan and Denmark. It should be a more balanced tournament and, with the re-emergence of South Africa, a more competitive one.



Bronwyn Calver, left, and Olivia Magno smile with satisfaction as Australia clinch the women's World Cup

Shah plays captain's innings

A CENTURY by Owais Shah, the England Under-19 captain, helped his side to what was, in the end, a comfortable draw in the second international here, leaving South Africa with no tangible reward for their long periods of dominance in this two-match series.

When the captains agreed to call the game off 30 minutes before the scheduled close, Shah was unbeaten with 104, having hit ten fours and a six from 150 balls, and England, who had been forced to follow on, were 274 for three, 59 ahead. Yesterday, the batsmen showed the application so painfully absent in the first innings against bowlers who were very tired at the end of

FROM JOHN STERN IN ROCKVILLE

play after spending 2½ days in the field.

Shah joined Michael Gough 30 minutes before lunch, after the loss of both opening batsmen in the space of 15 balls, and they complemented each other perfectly. Shah covered beautifully, showing a combination of technique and timing that Middlesex members will be able to enjoy for the whole of next summer now that he has left school.

He reached his half-century with a straight drive off a full toss from Rudolph, an impressive 16-year-old leg spinner, and later played the most pleasing shot of the day, an

extra-cover drive with the front leg fully bent, off Samson.

Gough, of Durham, tried nothing as audacious, but moved calmly towards his own half-century as 149 runs were added for the third wicket.

Stephen Peters and Robert Key had laid a good foundation with an opening stand of 97. Peters reaching his half-century with one of his favourite square cuts to the boundary off Mpsang, but was then bowled trying to pull Bodi.

Key, having been content to let his partner play most of the shots, then attempted an injudicious sweep against Bodi and was bowled round his legs.

New Zealand summon in-form Nash

DION NASH, the all-rounders, was rewarded for his strong early-season form with a recall to the New Zealand team for the second half of their limited-overs series in Australia in January.

Nash, who has been out of the New Zealand team since early last year because of a back injury, is one of two changes to the squad from that used in pre-Christmas matches against Australia and South Africa. Craig Spearman also returns.

NEW ZEALAND SQUAD: S P Fleming (captain), N J Astle, C L Cairns, S B Dou, C J Tindall, M J Vane, C D McMillan, D J Nash, S B O'Connor, A C Parore, C M Spearman, D L Vettori, B A Young.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Beginners are taught to lead high from a doubleton honour, as declarer as well as in defence, to unblock suits and maintain fluidity. While this may be sound advice on the whole, it need not apply when declarer has ample communications between hands. For example, declarer has A Q J 5 3 facing 10 2 in hand with unlimited entries. Players find it hard to resist leading the ten, the "natural" card, yet it can never gain a trick in the suit and stands to lose a trick if there is singleton king outside. A similar combination cropped up in the England junior trials this year:

Dealer South	East-West game	IMPs
♠ K 10 4	♠ 10 4	♠ 10 4
♥ 7 6 2	♥ 10 4	♥ 10 4
♦ Q J 3 2	♦ 10 4	♦ 10 4
♣ K 8 5 3	♣ 10 4	♣ 10 4
♠ 10 8	♠ 10 4	♠ 10 4

Contract: Six No-Trumps by South
Lead: Six of spades

South opened Two Clubs and rebid Three Diamonds over North's Two Diamond response. A Two No-Trump rebid, advertising a balanced hand of near game-forcing strength, was a better reflection of the character of the hand. Three Diamonds drives to game wily-nilly, and risks an eventual Three No-Trumps being played disadvantageously from the weak hand.

North bid Three Hearts over Three Diamonds, showing a suit as poor as 10 7 6 5 opposite a single-suited Two Club's opener is unhelpful to say the least. Four Diamonds would have been much more constructive.

Then South rebid Three No-Trumps, North raised to Four No-Trumps (quantitative, invitational to Six No-Trumps, not Blackwood) and South, with no real justification, went on to Six No-Trumps.

The contract depends on

playing diamonds for one loser. Declarer won the spade lead in hand, crossed to dummy in clubs and made the natural-looking play of leading the ten of diamonds, which resulted in two losers in the suit.

To take two diamond finesses is the right idea, but better play is to start by leading the six, intending to finesse the nine if East follows small; that gains over leading the ten when East holds the singleton jack or king.

You might think that leading the ten would gain against singleton king with West, but East covers from J 8 5 3, declarer puts in the queen, catering for singleton three or five with West, and East later scores the eight.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SENECHAL

- a. A diamond cluster
- b. An early flush toilet
- c. A major domo

SLEIPNER

- a. A mythical horse
- b. A Mozart symphony
- c. An aircraft engine

SELVYT

- a. A duster
- b. Small freshwater fish
- c. A table ornament

LAGAPOUS

- a. Detritus
- b. Footlike
- c. Non-alcoholic

Answers on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams out

After a marathon eight draws, Michael Adams lost the ninth game to Viswanathan Anand in the Fide championship in Groningen. Anand will play Anatoly Karpov in the final, which starts on January 1.

Hastings tournament

Britain's strongest tournament, the Hastings Premier, is under way at the Cinque Ports Hotel, Hastings. The first round saw wins by grandmasters Plaskett, Hebden and Sadler.

White: Eloi Relange

Black: Matthew Sadler

Hastings Premier

December 1997

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5

2 Nf3 d6

3 d4 cxd4

4 Nxd4 Nf6

5 Nc3 Bg7

6 Bg5 Be7

7 f4 Bc7

8 Qf3 Qc7

9 g4 b5

10 Nf5 Nc6

11 Bg5 Nc7

12 g5 Ng7+

13 Kf1 Ne5

14 Kf1 Ne5

15 Qh5 Qc8

16 Nf6 Bb6

17 Qd4 Qc7

18 Rg1 Bf6

19 e4+ Bg7

20 Nc5 Bf7

21 Qh4 Qc7

22 Qb3 Qc8

23 Bf3 Bg7

24 Bf3 Bg7

25 Rf1 Rf6

26 Ne6 Rf6

27 Bf1 Rf6

28 Bf1 Rf6

29 Qb3 Bf6

30 Nf5 Qc2+

31 Kf2 Nf6

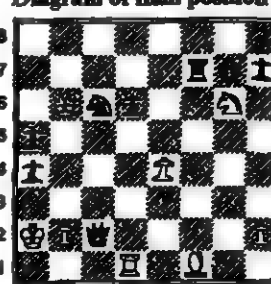
32 Ng5+ Kf7

33 Qc7+ Rf7

34 Qb6 Qf6

White resigns

Diagram of final position



White: Luke McShane

Black: Mark Hebden

Hastings Premier

December 1997

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5

2 Nf3 Nc6

3 Bb5 Bc5

4 Bxc6 Bxc6

5 O-O O-O

6 Re1 Re6

7 Bb3 Bb7

8 d4 Bxg4

9 Nc3 Bf6

10 Bg5 Bg7

11 Bc2 Qc7

12 Bb3 Bb7

13 Nf3 Bc7

14 Bg5 Bg7

15 Bc2 Qc7

16 Bb3 Bb7

17 Bc2 Qc7

18 Bb3 Bb7

19 Bc2 Qc7

20 Bb3 Bb7

21 Bc2 Qc7

22 Bb3 Bb7

23 Bc2 Qc7

24 Bb3 Bb7

25 Bc2 Qc7

26 Bb3 Bb7

27 Bc2 Qc7

28 Bb3 Bb7

29 Bc2 Qc7

30 Bb3 Bb7

31 Bc2 Qc7

32 Bb3 Bb7

33 Bc2 Qc7

34 Bb3 Bb7

35 Nc1 Ng3

White resigns

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

ING MOVE

White to play. This position is from the game Morphy — Mongredien, Paris, 1858. Black is a pawn down, but a more worrying feature of the position from his point of view is his lack of development. How did this now tell against him?

Solution on page 42

Solution on page 42



England coaching adviser marks the card of Christopher Irvine on league players who would prosper in the union game

Goulding's agent has notified leading clubs in the Allied Dunbar Premiership and invited

"In union, he could possibly make it at either scrum half or fly half because of the way he can control a game. Personally, I think any one of the international league side could make the transition into union successfully and vice-versa, with the possible exception of the specialist prop positions and lineout jumpers.

"If a top union club can buy out my contract, though, and meet personal terms, I'm ambitious to make the switch and reach the very highest level," he said. "The recent England internationals

In the new climate of belt-tightening, gambling up to £500,000 on someone whose previous union experience was for Lancashire Schools — where Kyran Bracken, the England

Nigel Wood, the chief executive of Halifax Blue Sox, said: "It might be that league loses one or

At Premiership level, most of the league players who have switched successfully were union players originally. Goulding would become the first high-profile league-bred player to make a permanent move to union in the professional era. The experiences of this week of two former colleagues of his at Leeds and Widnes, Simon Irving (one of a dozen players at Wakefield to have their contracts cancelled) and Christian Tyrer (released by Bath after 15 months) indicate that the grass on the other side of the fence is not always greener.

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday, Bristol announced that six members of the first-team squad would be placed on the transfer list: "We are looking for a tighter squad, one which still gives us reasonable cover but probably around the 30 mark," Fred Howard, the rugby manager, said. "These players deserve to be playing regular rugby, which we are

tion, Adam Larkin, a centre from New Zealand, arrives this week. They began the season with a squad of around 40, but may go as low as 25 full-time professionals, so long as the club can sustain the quality of the youngsters to whom it can offer burials.

At the same time, Bristol are pondering the future of their second team, Bristol United, who have lost five of their past six games because opponents have cried off, leaving expensive players kicking their heels in idleness. They may turn to a development XV, though, if they listen to Clive Woodward, the England coach, who will pour resources into under-21

Bristol have also adjusted their back three: Ian Jones, the Welshman who played at full back against Newcastle, moves to the wing and Josh Lewsey, the England Under-21 player who was a late replacement for Jones on Saturday, keeps his place at a ground where they last won in February 1995 — and that by a single point.

Indeed, it is more than seven months since Bristol last won an away league game, ignoring the play-off match at Bedford last season that kept them in the first division (for this year at least). In the 14 league games that they have played against Harlequins, they have left the Stoop successful on only two occasions. Harlequins may have had problems of their own this season, notably in terms of injuries among the tight-five forwards, where Andy Yates, who has propped for both Sale and Wakefield, stands by as a spectator. But the London side will hope to extend their sequence of consecutive victories over Bristol to five.

BY KEVIN FERRIE

Caledonia, the champions, could finish in any of the four

"The harder Kevin has worked to challenge, the harder Gavin Scott has worked to hold on to the position," Ian Rankin, the Caledonia coach, said. "Gavin wasn't even in our squad last year, but he benefited from being on the Scottish Silver Thistles tour of New Zealand in the summer and is playing exceptionally well."

Although they have Scotland's most-capped player in their side for the meeting with the Borders, Edinburgh continue to have an unusually inexperienced look. Scott Hastings may be one of five international players in the squad, but the other four — Duncan Hodge, Barry Stewart, Stuart Reid and Cameron Glasgow, a substitute — have only nine caps between them.

One of the big selection issues was the inclusion of Hastings — not whether he would play, but where. He has performed well at full back for Watsonians in recent weeks, but Bob Easson, the Edinburgh coach, said: "Our full back, Hugh Gilmour, is returning to full fitness and I am happy with the club partnership of Scott Hastings and Jamie Mayer at centre. I think that gives us the right balance." John Walters, the Boroughmuir wing, a 25-year-old who has played 60 times for Waikato, will make his district debut six months after arriving from New Zealand.

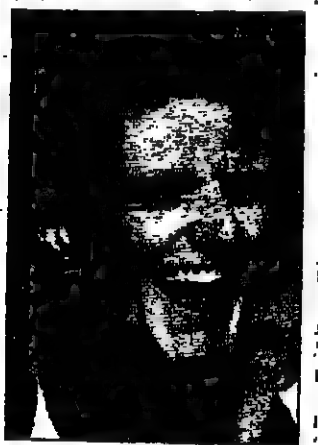
(Glasgow Hawks), C Sangster (Sirling County), J Watson (Watsonians), F Burns (Burns), M Burns (Burns), G Docherty (Glasgow Hawks), G McIlhenny (Glasgow Hawks), M Wallace (Glasgow Hawks), F Wallace (Glasgow Hawks), G Mackay (Glasgow Hawks), G Guthrie (West of Scotland), D McLeish (West of Scotland), G Pernett (West of Scotland), J Shaw (West of Scotland), M Nisbet (Sirling County), D Parrie (Sirling County).

EDINBURGH (in Scottish Borders): M Gilmour (Hants' F.P.), J Wallace (Boroughmuir), S Burns (Burnsians), J Burns (Burnsians), S Reed (Edinburgh Academicals), D Hodge (Watsonians), G Burns (Watsonians), R McNulty (Boroughmuir), K Allen (Boroughmuir), B Stewart (Edinburgh Academicals), D Burns (Boroughmuir), M Blair (Cassius), T McLeish (Hants' F.P.), S Reed (Boroughmuir).

BY KEVIN FERNIE

"I had absolutely no qualms about playing for England, because it is the pinnacle of my profession...but I did have some about not playing for Scotland," Brown said. "However, I realised that I could also do more good for Scottish cricket by playing for England than I could by playing for Scotland in the World Cup."

That ability to see the bigger picture is shared by former club-mates. Mahindra Patel was one of the six-man Scottish Cricket Union (SCU) steering group whose proposal effectively threw Clackman-



Brown: Sharjah triumph

nanshire out of the new Scottish National Cricket League for the next two years. Alex Ritchie, another club member, the SCU's general manager, was the steering group's secretary.

Relegated from the Scottish Cricketer League last season, Clackmannanshire hoped that they might be saved by restructuring that was introduced to integrate the Western Union clubs and create a truly national competition. Instead, a three-conference set-up for next season, aimed at creating a new three-division league for 1999, left no opportunity for their return before 2000.

Clackmannanshire believed that they had a legal case that would have allowed them to block the changes, but chose not to pursue that course.

New Clackmannanshire officials appreciate that they must seek to capitalise on Brown's success and re-establish the youth policy that brought him to prominence. Their failure to attract youngsters in recent years has given rise to an ageing second XI that is having trouble fulfilling its fixtures, contributing to the lack of reserve strength in the first XI that will now play in the higher East League.

Cricketer's image in Central Scotland has, of course, always been a problem, perceived as a game only for those with upper-class pretensions. However, with achievements such as taking 100 West Indies wickets in the first three balls of a match, including the removal of Brian Lara, Brown may be able to change that.

THE irresistible Michael Jordan drives for the basket on the way to collecting another record in his magnificent career when leading the Chicago Bulls to a 111-105 victory over Dallas Mavericks in a National Basketball Association (NBA) game on Monday night. Jordan scored 41 points to equal Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's record of scoring ten points or more in 787 consecutive games.

Despite Jordan's landmark, the game was dominated by Dennis Rodman, who foiled Don Nelson's intentional fouling strategy and just missed a triple-double, getting 27 rebounds, 11 points and eight assists as

The Bulls stretched their winning streak to eight games and extended the Mavericks' losing streak to 12. Rodman's was his season's highest points total. He also matched his career highs in free throws attempted (12) and made (nine).

At Houston, David Wesley scored 21 of his 32 points in the first quarter, leading a barrage of three-point shooting as the Charlotte Hornets ended their three-game losing streak by beating the Rockets 120-101. The Hornets, second in the NBA in three-point shooting at 37 per cent, connected on 12 of 18 from behind the arc and shot 60 per cent overall.

Del Curry came off the bench to add 23 points, going six out of eight from three-point range, and Anthony Mason had 20. Clyde Drexler and Kevin Willis were the joint-top-scorers for Houston with 18 points apiece and Charles Barkley had 12 rebounds.

Keith Van Horn, a rookie, had a career-high 32 points and ten rebounds as the New Jersey Nets avenged their worst defeat of the season by beating Washington Wizards 99-91. Jayson Williams collected 19 points and 22 rebounds as the Nets prevailed despite making just two field goals in the fourth quarter. Chris Webber scored 22 points for Washington.

Selectors swiftly revert to fartism

I have thought long and hard about the reasons for demotion of Adam Holoake from the position of captain of the England one-day cricket team and I think I have cracked it. It is because the selectors are old farts.

The term, a useful one in all walks of life, acquired a certain dubious respectability — at any rate, a publishability — after Will Carling's throw-away description of the men at the top of his own sport of rugby union: the famous 57 old farts.

The Holoake decision was made by three selectors. The first is David Graveney, whom I am inclined to let off. The other two are Mike Gatting and Graham Gooch. Mr Gooch, Mr Gatting: j'accuse. You — former rebels both, former new brooms, men formerly dedicated to changing the face of English cricket — are a pair of old farts.

It doesn't take long, does it? Gooch stopped playing last summer. Gatting is still playing, but scratch a man dressed in a little brief authority and you lay bare the fart beneath.

At the last World Cup, England showed that they were probably the worst one-day international side in the world and certainly the least up-to-date. My old friend, Matthew Engel, picking his words with the precision that befits the editor of *Wisden*, said that the England team was like "a bad-tempered grandmother attending a teenage rave".

The end-of-term report said: "Must do better." Which involves taking one-day cricket with the seriousness of pur-

'Mr Gooch and Mr Gatting, j'accuse'

pose that is appropriate to international sport. Which means changing your way of thinking.

And, glory be, England actually did it. After years of turning down invitations to play in "spurious" one-day tournaments in Sharjah, England accepted one. They sent out a team of one-day specialists under a groovy young captain who revels in that form of the game.

Holoake did all that was required and more. For a moment, it seemed like the dawn of the age of post-fartism. The team went out full

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

of bounce and came back with a vengeance. It would be daft to get over-excited about all this, but a team can do no more than win every match. It was an uncharacteristically bold experiment, taken in the absence of Michael Atherton, who had declared himself unavailable, and it worked.

One gets used to unusual behaviour from all sporting administrators, England cricket selectors in particular, but to have the courage to try an experiment, to have the good fortune to see it work and then to chuck it out and go

back to the old way — this flies in the face of logic. How many times have Gooch and Gatting bewailed selectorial lunacy? Yet now they are perpetrating the same behaviour, consistent to nothing but the ancient precepts of fartism.

Holoake in the role of England one-day captain was shown, prima facie, to be a good thing. So, after going to trouble and expense of finding this out, they have relegated him to vice-captain. There are good leaders and good No 2s and rarely are they the same

person. Message to all cricketers: do everything we ask and more, and you'll surely be demoted.

Why have they done this? Because separate captains for one-day cricket and for Test cricket is Simply Not Done. It is not so much that it undermines the captain as the fact that it undermines the notion of captaincy.

Shakespeare's plays ring with the respect for the mystical state of kingship. A king is a man who is, indeed, in office by divine right and to de-throne him is a kind of blasphemy. Gooch and Gatting,

former England captains, believe that the same thing is true of captaincy.

This is pure fartism. When they were hot and rebellious young things, their respect for authority was less marked. Gatting caused a diplomatic incident and then a sleazy world cricket, and much else besides, by taking part in rebel tours to South Africa.

Both have been wonderful cricketers, but that is not in the area of dispute. Both are men of admirable qualities, but

'Sport has revealed their flaws and virtues'

sport, as always, has revealed their flaws and their virtues together. The point is not so much their personal failings as the speed with which Young Turks become old farts.

Gooch and Gatting were selected as selectors because they were in touch: younger than is traditional for the job and, indeed, actually playing. They brought vibrant new thinking to the job too, with the Holoake experiment. But they lost their nerve. It seemed that the winds of change were blowing, but no. Fartism is dead: long live fartism.

The Wildlife Specials: Wolf

BBC1, 7.35pm

The wolf may be the ancestor of our domestic dog but we have never treated it as a pet. On the contrary we have done our best to banish it to the remotest corners of the globe. This presents a formidable challenge to wildlife film-makers. But they are as resilient a breed as the wolf itself, and to get footage for this documentary Jeff Turner spent seven months a year, for three years, camping out in Canadian temperatures many degrees below zero. Nobody will say it was not worth it, especially after they have seen the sequence in which a pack of wolves eye up a herd of buffalo many times their size with a view to a filling meal. But there are wolves nearer home. In Transylvania, *Dracula* country, they are filmed leaving their forest habitat for the nearest town to scavenge, just like urban foxes, in the dustbins.

Cold Enough for Snow

BBC1, 9.00pm (Not Scotland)

This is a sequel to the marvellous *Esquimo Day*. Jack Rosenthal's funny and perceptive study of two chalk-and-cheese families trying to get their snow story moves on to the anguish of the A levels and the wrench of the young people leaving home, though their university destination is not Cambridge but Exeter. Rosenthal's social observation is again spot-on and his exploration of what parents go through when their children leave the nest will strike a chord with a whole generation. Tom Wilkinson and Anna Carteret play the well-heeled Lloyds, with David Ross and Maureen Lipman as the working-class Whittles and Laura Howard and Benedict Sandford as the fussed-out students. The episode structure means a leisurely pace but as in *Esquimo Day* the punchline is completely unexpected.

Growing Up With A Max Headroom

Channel 4, 9.00pm

No retrospective of Channel 4's first 15 years would be complete without one of its most original creations. *Max Headroom* was the computer-generated television presenter named after the sign in car parks. Real TV hosts are no doubt relieved



Maureen Lipman stars (BBC1, 9.00pm)

that the idea has not caught on but Max was big in his time, introducing a pop video series, featuring in commercials and even topping a popularity poll. He was also a favourite of Jeremy Isaacs, Channel 4's first chief executive, who chose him for the *Growing Up With A* season. The emergence of Max was charted in this 1985 film, about a television station whose star reporter gets too near the truth about its dodgy dealings. In a superbly inventive piece of science fiction, the reporter's brain is used to create Max. But he proves to be less malleable than his masters had hoped.

The Unique Dave Allen

BBC1, 10.30pm

When is a repeat not quite a repeat? When it is, Dave Allen introducing clips from his old BBC shows. Not that the prospect is not entirely welcome. Apart from an ITV series distinguished more by smut than wit, Allen has not been on the small screen much recently and although unique is a huge claim there has never been a funnier man on the screen. He is an incomparable purveyor of the shaggy dog story and he has the Irishman's knack of joking about religion without ever quite crossing into blasphemy. We tend to remember Allen on his stool, cigarette and whisky at the ready, but this series draws more on his sketches and stand-up routines. The first programme concentrates on Christmas, with Allen's links offering his memories of Christmas past. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Britannia

Radio 2, 7.00pm

One of my few rules in this space is that I do not insult readers by telling them which radio network, if any, they ought to be tuned in to at midnight on New Year's Eve, not least because I know there are plenty of people who do not bother to stay up for the chiming. But there are plenty of people who stay in and *Britannia* is as entertaining and informative a nostalgia trip as one could imagine for this particular evening. Rear Admiral Sir Robert Woodward, Flag Officer Royal Yachts for five years until 1995, presents this two-part series, which begins tonight with the building of *Britannia* on the Clyde to a design, I was surprised to learn, based on a cross-Channel ferry of the time. But what an elegant vessel was to emerge.

RADIO 1

8.00am Chris Moyles 10.00 Mark Goodier 12.30pm Mary Anne Hobbs 4.00 UK Top 40 1997 7.00 Pete Tong's Global Selection 10.30 New Year Edinburga, including Dave Pearce live from Glasgow and at 12.30am Pete Tong at the Ministry of Sound in London

RADIO 2

8.00am Richard Ainsworth 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Alan Lester 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Dredd 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 6.00 Rockin' All Over the World: Status Quo Story 7.00 Britannia See Choice 8.00 The Furry Business 9.00 Phil Jones 10.00 A New Year's Eve to Remember 11.45 Steve Madden 3.00am Patrick Lint

RADIO 3

6.00am Murray Walker's Grand Prix World (r) 6.30 The Breakfast Programme 8.00 Nasty Campbell 11.30 The Celtic Tiger 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00am The 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Politician, the Actress and the Bishop (r) 8.00 Any Sporting Questions 10.00 Under the Influence. See Choice 11.00 News Extra 11.30 The Celtic Tiger (r) 11.45 After Hours 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night 2.00 Up All Night 5.00 Under the Influence (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

8.00am Lynn Parsons 10.00 (FM) Robin Berks 1.00pm (FM) Nick Hobbs 4.00 UK Top 40 1997 7.00 Mark Forster 7.00 (FM) Paul Oyle (MW) Carin Jones 10.00 Jeremy Clark 2.00am Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross & Carol McCall 8.00 Peter Dinkley 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Mike Dixon 4.00 Kate Lloyd & Ben Overton 7.00 Sport Review 10.00 James Walsh 3.00am Mark Smith

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes, including Mozart (Missa Solenne in C, K357) 9.00 Morning Collection, presented by Penny Gore 10.00 Musical Encounters, with John Tost, Rossini (Overture Orléans); Bernstein (Chichester Psalms); Mozart (Piano Sonata in A minor, K510) 12.00 Composers of the Week: Twentieth-Century American Song, with Brian Morton 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. A performance by the Ensemble Quatuor, with Robert Chen, cello; Schubert (String Quartet in C) (r) 2.00 Midweek Concert, with Susan Sharpe 4.00 Choral Evensong, from Westminster Abbey 5.00 The Changing Orchestra, Michael Hall explores the changing sound of the recorded orchestra 6.00 Soft Resoundings, Humphrey Carpenter introduces memorable encounters with Solti 7.00 Performance on 3, A concert given last month at the Queen Elizabeth Hall as part of the London Jazz Festival. Fred Hersch, piano, Cynthia Clay, soprano, Jake Gardner, baritone, BBC Concert

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.45 Facts and Fancies 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Christmas with the Times columnist Libby Purves and her guests in Scotland 10.00 (FM) News: The Garden (3/4) 10.00 (LW) News: On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler 10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray 11.30 Armchair Detective: Papyrus (3/4) 12.00 News: You and Yours, with John Waite 12.25pm Little Novels: Mr Policeman and the Cook. A mystery by Wilkie Collins 12.55 Weather 1.00 World of One, with James Cox 1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: The Bottom of a Well, by Claire Dowie. The story of a man's obsession 3.00 The Afternoon Show, with David Brehn 4.05 Kaleidoscope Features: Rocket Man and the Chipolata Fingers. Paul Gambaccini talks to Elton John about his 30-year career (r)

Orchestra under Robert Ziegler. Tchaikovsky arr. Elton John/Strayhorn (Overture, The Nutcracker); Elton John (Three Pieces from The River), Billy Strayhorn, arr. Hersch (Three Songs); Wilhelm Gross (Aria for Solo); Elton John (New World A-comin'); Anthony Davis (Notes from the Underground); Elton John (Parade) 8.40 Postscript: Ageing Tasteless (3/5) 9.00 Ensemble. Penny Gore introduces a recital by the Belcea Quartet, Haydn (String Quartet in D), Debussy (String Quartet in G minor) 9.50 The Shellac Show, with Jeremy Nicholas includes Louis Karpman playing Constant Lambert's arrangement of Liszt's *Dante Sonata* 10.45 Composers of the Week: British Light Music 11.45 Jazz Meets New Year Party. Dobby Fairweather is joined at the Bull's Head in Battersea and the London's most famous jazz venues, by the dynamic band Sax Appeal and the occasional prior to see in the new year 1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

5.00 PM 5.00 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Masterplan (r) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Facts and Fancies. A new series with John Waite 7.45 Correspondents Look Ahead 8.45 How Music Change Can the World. The first of a new series exploring the influence of music 9.30 The Pickwick Papers (3/5) (r) 9.58 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight Special Debate 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Playback (3/10) 11.00 The (Almost) Accidental Adventures of Bell 11.15 TV Dinner: The Happiest Days of Your Life, a comedy comic tale by Keith Laing (3/6) 11.30 John Shuttleworth's Open House. John John Shuttleworth lives in his Sheffield home. Written and performed by Graham Fellows 12.00 News 12.05am The Late Book — Ghost Stories: A School Story, by M.R. James. Two corpses are dragged from a deep well (3/5) (r) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 AM World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-98.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.8-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 608. WORLD SERVICE. MW 649; LW 158 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1069. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManis.



No prizes for finishing second in Bormio, but Franz, runner-up in six downhills, has his eye on a place in the Austria team for the Olympic Games

Schifferer leads the Austrian charge

ANDREAS SCHIFFERER won his second men's downhill of the season in Bormio, Italy, yesterday and deposed Hermann Maier, his fellow Austrian, and the overall World Cup leader, at the top of the downhill standings.

Schifferer, the winner at Beaver Creek in the United States this month and second in a downhill in Bormio on Monday, covered the icy Stelvio piste in 2min 11.44sec. The fifth to start, he made errors on the upper part of the

piste, but skied an aggressive second half. He then watched skier eclipse his halfway split time before falling nearer the finish.

"I spent a long time suffering at the bottom of the mountain because I made a bit of a mess of the first part of the race," he said. "I was convinced Maier would beat me, but it seems he had some problems too. I was more relaxed today than yesterday

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

and that, along with a bit of luck, made the difference. It's a great way to finish the year." Werner Franz, also of Austria, was second in 2min 11.82sec. He has now finished second in six World Cup downhills, but has yet to win one. "That doesn't bother me too much as at the moment," he said. "Consistency is the important thing. We're all looking for places in the Olympic team." Lasse Kjus, of Norway, was third in 2min 21.08sec.

Maier, the revelation of the Alpine World Cup this season, missed out on the podium for only the second time in nine consecutive giant slalom, super-giant slalom and downhill races. The 25-year-old racer from Flachau, who beat Schifferer to claim his first World Cup downhill victory on Monday, finished fourth in 2min 21.95sec. "I'm just happy to have survived today," he

said. "I'm going to go home for New Year, host a big party and hope 1998 starts as well as 1997 has ended."

Maier still heads the overall World Cup standings with 639 points. Schifferer moves up to third on 401 points.

Three other Austrians — Hannes Trinkl, Stefan Eberharter and Roland Assinger — also finished in the top ten, but Josef and Fritz Strobl (no relation) failed to finish.

Bruno Kernen, of Switzerland, showed a glimmer of the form that took him to the world championship downhill title a year ago, finishing sixth in 2min 25.25sec. "It's good to be back at last," he said. "I've had a difficult season so far." Kristian Chedina, of Italy, winner of the first race of the season at Beaver Creek, disappointed thousands of home supporters who lined the piste in brilliant sunshine, by skiing a wayward 2min 3.59sec to finish sixteenth.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Sun)	Last snow
	L	Piste	Off/P	°C	
ANDORRA					
Scordeva	35	80 good (Very good skiing on upper slopes)	fair	fair	1 27/12
AUSTRIA					
Kitzbühel	10	80 good powder (Great skiing on upper slopes)	worn	sun	- 1 28/12
Garmisch	90	140 good powder (Excellent skiing conditions, clear weather)	good	fair	-6 29/12
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	59	130 good varied (Very good skiing to be found, few bare patches)	tail	cloud	2 27/12
Val d'Isère	55	145 good powder (Fantastic skiing on well-prepared slopes)	good	fair	4 27/12
Méribel	58	72 good powder (Good skiing, particularly on Mont Vallon)	tail	fair	-3 28/12
ITALY					
Livigno	65	116 good powder (Mostly excellent piste skiing throughout resort)	good	low	-4 26/12
SWITZERLAND					
C Montana	5	90 hard varied (Great skiing on upper runs 115cm snow at 3,000m)	fair	sun	-2 27/12
Mürren	80	110 good powder (Very good skiing, especially on the Schilthorn)	tail	cloud	1 28/12
Saas Fee	40	170 good varied (Great skiing on upper runs 15cm snow at 2,500m)	tail	sun	-3 28/12
Source: Ski Cup of Great Britain L: lower slopes; U: upper					

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain

L - lower slopes; U - upper

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 35

SENECHAL (a) A major domo. An official in the household of a sovereign or great noble to whom the administration of justice and total control of domestic arrangements were entrusted. In other words, a grand housekeeper (male, of course) for nobles.

SLEIPNER

(a) In Nordic mythology, the horse of Odin, having (the horse, not Odin) eight legs. The horse was red-hot for speed. He was similarly successful at speed. When Sigurd drove some horses into the river, one only swam across, throwing up his head and neighing for victory. He was Grani by Sleipner.

SELYT

(a) A kind of duster or slippery shammy-leather cloth for polishing. Cycling, 1898: "Plating is best cleaned of rust by hard rubbing with paraffin and polished with chammois leather or selyt."

LAGAPOUS

(b) Footlike, looking like a foot. From the Greek. The word is used to describe certain plants having rhizomes resembling a lamb's foot.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qb4! Qx5 (1... Qxb4? 2. Re3+ mates); 2. Qxb7! with the same idea.

SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE NEW YEAR ON ITV
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE NEW TOYOTA AVENTIS

مكتبة النور

The authentic voice of a grieving people

The good thing, perhaps the only good thing, that can be said about the unprecedented grief that followed the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, is that it worked. We felt sad, we grieved and eventually we felt better again. Which is why, until now, I have felt no compunction whatsoever in avoiding the various tribute programmes that the nation's broadcasters have prepared for the year-end. For the time being I am troubled out.

But I had a hunch that Modern Times: The Shrine (BBC2) might be different and it was. No familiar biographical details, no overused library footage — just a succession of television encounters with some of the millions of people who poured into Kensington Gardens after her death and, in many cases, found it terribly difficult to go home again.

The greatest achievement of Richard Alwyn's fine reportage

was that it halted in its tracks the rewriting of history currently taking place over the nation's allegedly more sophisticated dinner tables. Mass hysteria, they said, not genuine grief. Of course, I went along to see what all the fuss was about, conveniently forgetting how difficult it was to hold back the tears, or the flowers they took along because somehow that seemed right.

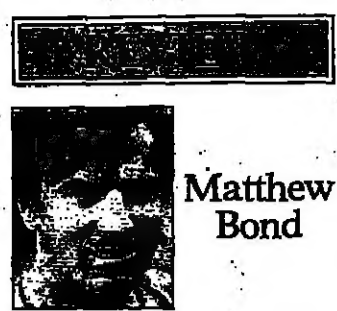
The first ten minutes was an almost shocking reminder of how powerful the emotional response to the Princess's death was. The tears may have dried by now but that rather odd sound you heard at about quarter past nine last night was the nation (or at least that part of it which watches BBC2) having a good sniff.

Having sensibly dispensed with a narrator, it was left to those interviewed to try to articulate what they and everyone else was feeling. A young woman seemed to

get closest with: "It's not just a piece of history, it's a piece of you." But if that wasn't to your taste, there were plenty of others.

The film's main flaw, in fact, was that there were too many others. It could have ended, rather beautifully, after ten minutes with a single white rose that had been tossed into the path of the funeral cortege that lay undisturbed until a road-sweeper swept it into his trolley. In reality it ended a full 65 minutes later, with an echo of that first floral image as heaps of decaying flowers were fed into a shredder on their way to becoming compost.

For me the film was a good 20 minutes too long, despite the undeniable beauty of some of the photography and some powerful reminders of things only recently past (such as Earl Spencer's funeral address) but already consigned to history. Long before



Matthew Bond

we got to the compost heap and the credits, I felt as if I had been through the entire grieving process again. I had felt sad, I'd reflected and now... I felt better again. It was time for something else.

another of Guy Jenkin's clever little, jeu-d'esprit affairs, Mr White Goes to Westminster (Channel 4). In the place of Bell we had Ben White (Bill Paterson), an intrepid foreign correspondent who didn't work for the BBC but did have a glamorous daughter (Josephine Butler). And in place of the Hamiltons we had the Madisons (Robert Duncan and Celia Imrie). So far, so familiar territory.

But it was when we got to the Tatton result (played here by Dorset East) after only 10 minutes that I realised that Jenkin must have something else up his sleeve. Turned out to be my sister. The incomparable Samantha Bond played Helen Nash, an ambitious new Labour MP whose one concession to the socialists had been once inspired her was to wear red knickers under her Armani suits. More importantly, she also turned out to be an old flame of White's, a fact which the tabloids took much

pleasure in revealing after White had launched a Bill to give those misrepresented by the press a statutory right of redress (equal space in the newspaper).

Meanwhile, White and Nash were taking much pleasure in ill-advisedly rekindling the flame, which is always an awkward moment for a brother but I can see it helped the plot along.

Having scored as many comic hits against the Madison/Hamiltons as his lawyers would allow, Jenkin turned his pen against new Labour and the newspapers. Had the banner headlines about their original affair harmed her chances of becoming a junior minister, asked a concerned White, "Mandelson says no," she replied. "So yes, then." Very enjoyable. Much less enjoyable was King Leek (ITV), a comedy drama (or so it was billed) that can't possibly

have been what ITV was expecting. What they wanted, surely, was a knockabout comedy about two rival northerners and their prize leek. What William Ivory, the writer, delivered was something so black that it was right on impossible to see the comedy at all. When the hero is fat, 50 and on the scrapheap, and the most sympathetic character turns out to be a drug-dealer, you know you're in trouble.

Specific trouble is that we've seen this bleak, working man (or in this case non-working man) stuff too many times before. Ivory combined it with comedy quite brilliantly in the first series of *Common as Muck*, much less successfully in the second series and hardly at all in this — despite the enthusiastic support of *Muck* veteran Tim Healy as Cromer. Ivory's new year resolution should be to take a deep breath... and try something new.

BBC1

7.00am News (T) (2255431) 7.10 Puddington Pass (2255219) 7.15 Teletubbies (2242228) 7.40 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (2262261) 8.05 Casper the Friendly Ghost (2242228) 8.30 Johnny (2262261) 8.55 Newsworld 37 (T) (2262261) 9.30 Sweet Valley High (1125556) 9.50 Teletubbies (2262261) 10.20 News (T) (2262261)

10.30 The Nutcracker Prince (1990) An animated version of the children's Christmas legend. Directed by Paul Schill (T) (1350554) 11.40 Cartoon (2222222) 12.00 Keeping Up Appearances Christmas special (T) (11502) 12.30pm Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (1151)

1.00 News (T) and weather (2262261) 1.15 Neighbours (T) (2262261) 1.30 Cartoon (1151203) 1.45 Buggy Malone (1976) British director Alan Parker's slapstick spoof of 1940s gangster movies, featuring a huge cast composed entirely of children including Jodie Foster (T) (200603) 3.15 Back to the Future, Part III (1990) Sci-fi comedy in which Michael J. Fox reprises his role as time-travelling teenager Marty McFly, this time transported back to the days of the Wild West. Directed by Robert Zemeckis (T) (2262261)

5.05 Neighbours (T) (T) (2262261) 5.30 News (T) and weather (1350554) 5.45 Regional News (2262261) 6.00 K-9 (1989) Fast-moving comedy, with James Belushi as an obsessive hard-boiled cop who is assigned a new partner, an alien. Directed by Rod Daniel (T) (2262261) 7.35 Wolf: A Wildlife Special A close-up look at wolves in the wild in northern Canada and Transylvania (T) (2262261)

8.25 News (T) and weather (210141) 8.45 The National Lottery Draw (2262261) 9.00 Cold Enough for Snow Tragi-comedy sequel to Eskimo Day, starring Maureen Lipman, David Ross and Anna Carter (T) (1870) 10.25 National Lottery Draw (2262261) 10.30 The Unique Dave Allen Dave Allen presents some of his most outrageously funny sketches and stand-up routines about Christmas festivities (1986)

11.00 The End of the Year Show with Angus Deayton with celebrity guests and live music (T) (2262261) 12.05am Happy New Year The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, reflects on the year gone by and looks forward to 1998 (2262261) 12.10 Hogmanay Live Celebrations in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle introduced by Carol Smilie and Douglas Vipond (2262261)

1.00 Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) Comedy, with the Carry On crew, about an over-the-hill union leader's inventory factory. Directed by Gerald Thomas (T) (2262261) 2.25 Weather (210555) 2.30 BBC News 24

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These allow you to find your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (V), PlusCode (P) and Video Recorder are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.55am Going Hollywood (2165702) 8.10 Great Mysteries and Myths of the 20th Century: Loch Ness (2262261) 8.35 Vivacious Lady (1938) Nightclub singer Ginger Rogers marries professor of botany, James Stewart. Directed by George Stevens (2241222) 10.30 Camp Nowhere (1994) Comedy with Christopher Lloyd and Jonathan Jackson. Directed by Jonathan Prince (T) (2262261)

12.20pm Regional News (2262261) 12.30 News (T) and weather (2262261) 12.55 Movie Magic: Dinosaur (1988/257) 1.55 News (T) (2262261) 2.00 Hoosiers (1986) With Gene Hackman, A washed-up basketball coach receives a coach's reception when he arrives in a small town to head the high school team. Directed by David Anspaugh (2244322)

4.10 Diana: The Week the World Stood Still Nicholas Owen examines the public outpouring of emotion from the first news of the fatal car crash in Paris to the Princess's funeral (T) (2262261) 5.40 News (T) and weather (2262261) 6.00 The Baldy Man: Barbecue/China Doll (2262261) 6.25 Regional News (2262261) 6.30 Regional News (T) (2262261) 7.00 Emmerdale Roy is finding it hard to cope with his mother's illness (T) (1412) 7.30 Coronation Street Deirdre makes an alarming discovery (T) (306)

8.00 Des O'Connor Tonight Guests include Bob Monkhouse, Russ Abbot, Martin McCutcheon, Sean Mao and the Woolpackers (22615) 9.00 A Perfect Stranger (1994) Film adaptation of Danielle Steel's drama with Robert Urich as an ambitious attorney who falls in love with the beautiful wife of a terminally ill millionaire (T) (2262261) 10.45 News and weather (2262261) 11.00 Happy New Year — Live from Edinburgh's Hogmanay Festival Tunes and Philip Schofield and Edinburgh for a huge street party (2262261)

12.30am News 97 (2262261) 3.25 Light of Day (1997) With Michael J. Fox, Gene Rowlands and Joan Jet. A brother and sister dream of musical stardom but struggle against poverty, illness and family problems. Directed by Paul Schrader (2262261) 5.25 Coronation Street (T) (T) (2262261) 5.55 News (2262261)

Host Jojo's Holland (12.00) 12.00 Jojo's Fifth Annual Hootenanny with Jojo's Holland's Rhythm and Soul Orchestra, S.E. King, Gabeella, Jewel, Blur, Fun Lovin' Criminals (T) (2262261) 1.15am Glasgow Highlights (2262261) 2.30 Weather (2262261)

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HTV

6.00am GMTV (212344) 9.25 The Fantastic Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor (1922141) 9.55 Regional News and weather (2262261) 10.00 Freezeframe! (71832) 10.30 Camp Nowhere (1994) Comedy with Christopher Lloyd and Jonathan Jackson. Directed by Jonathan Prince (T) (2262261)

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CENTRAL

As HTV West except: 12.55 The Fashion Police (2262261) 1.30-1.55 Masters of Illusion (2242228) 6.30-7.00 Central News (122) 12.35am Film: MacKenna's Gold (2262261) 2.55 Rockmole (2262261) 3.58 Film: A Little of What You Fancy (2262261) 5.05 Borrowers in the Making (2262261) 5.30 Teletubbies (2262261)

As HTV West except: 6.55-10.00 Birthday People (2262261) 12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (2262261) 12.55 Emmerdale (2262261) 1.30-1.55 Masters of Illusion (2242228) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (2262261)

As HTV West except: 12.55 Shortland Street (2262261) 1.30-1.55 Masters of Illusion (2242228) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (2262261) 6.30-7.00 Baldy Man (122) 5.25am Look and Cook (2262261)

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CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (2240325) 7.05 The Baby's Club (T) (2262261) 7.35 Two Stupid Dogs (T) (2262261) 8.00 The Big Breakfast (18515) 10.00 Zig and Zag's Big Morning (2262261) 10.01 Happy Days (T) (2262261) 10.30 Saved by the Bell (T) (1134122) 11.05 Moshesha (2262261) 11.30 The Monkees (2262261) 12.05pm Coping With Cool (3/8) (2262261) 12.35 Erie, Indiana (T) (T) (2262261)

1.00 Astronauts A documentary about the crew of the space shuttle Endeavour as they prepare to embark on their first mission (T) (T) (2262261) 2.00 A Woman of Substance The conclusion of the mini-series (T) (T) (2262261) 3.55 A Little Something A Candy Guard animation about women's attitudes (T) (2262261) 4.00 Bewitched (2262261) 4.30 Countdown (T) (215) 5.00 The Apartment (1960) starring Jack Lemmon, Fred MacMurray and Shirley Maclaine. A multi Oscar-winning comedy drama about a scheming corporate climber. Directed by Billy Wilder (T) (2262261)

7.20 Creature Comforts Nick Park's Oscar-winning animation with zoo animals talking about their life behind bars (T) (T) (2262261) 7.25 News summary and weather (2262261) 7.30 Things to Come A guide to competing visions of the future. The chairman, David Aaronovitch, brings together three teams — the Technofuturists, the Continuity team and the Catastrophists (T) (2262261) 8.30 Brookside Will Ron's date with Molly be a success? Has Susan finally pushed Jack over the edge? Will Jimmy ever get Lucy his job? (T) (2262261)

9.00 The Headroom Sir Jeremy Isaacs's choice of the one programme he felt summed up Channel 4 during his years in charge (2262261) 10.10 Adam and Joe's Fourteenth Years Comedy from Adam Buxton and Joe Cornish (T) (2262261) 10.35 Staying by the Ball (1134122) 11.05 Moshesha (2262261) 11.30 The Monkees (2262261) 12.05pm Coping With Cool (3/8) (2262261) 12.35 Erie, Indiana (T) (T) (2262261) 1.15 Tie Yee (2262261) 1.30 Boy Meets World (2262261) 2.00 A Woman of Substance (2262261) 3.55 A Little Something (2262261) 4.00 Bewitched (2262261) 4.30 Countdown (215) 5.00 Pump (2262261) 5.15 Film (2262261) 5.40 Greyhound's Byd Wedi Eu Hamidnyidd (134141) 6.00 Newydd (2262261) 6.05 Hario (2262261) 7.00 Pabot y Cwm (2262261) 7.25 Caelech y Dydd, Mwy'r Udd yn 75 Caelech (2262261) 8.00 Dennis (2262261) 8.30 Dennis (2262261) 9.00 Dennis (2262261) 9.30 Dennis (2262261) 10.05 Brookside (2262261) 10.40 Y Prifffwrdd (115200) 11.10 Nodur Llawen (2262261) 12.15am Under the Moon (1432021) 4.30 Lumberjacks OK (2262261)

Chris Evans celebrates (11.00pm) 11.00 TP 1996 Chris Evans and the team see in the new year with guests Desmond Lynam, Frank Skinner, Jo Guest and Melinda Messenger (2262261) 12.15am Under the Moon Stars tonight include Rangers' Ally McCoist, his Celtic rival Alan Stubbs and radio presenter Stuart Cosgrove (2262261) 3.00 The American Football Big Match: The Road to Super Bowl XXXII (2262261) 5.00 Meet Laid: Live in the Neighbourhood A concert recorded in New York (T) (2262261)

Guinness and Falk (8.00pm) 9.00 Murder by Death (1976) A spoof whodunnit in which an eccentric millionaire challenges the world's top detectives to solve a complicated case. Starring Peter Sellers, Peter Falk, Alan Guinness and David Niven. Directed by Brian Moore (2262261) 10.50 La Femme Nikita (2262261) 11.45 The Jack Docherty Show A music special (2262261) 12.30am Under the Moon Stars tonight include Rangers' Ally McCoist, his Celtic rival Alan Stubbs and radio presenter Stuart Cosgrove (2262261) 3.00 The American Football Big Match: The Road to Super Bowl XXXII (2262261) 5.00 Meet Laid: Live in the Neighbourhood A concert recorded in New York (T) (2262261)

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CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.8275 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz.

6.00am Dappledawn Farm (T) (2262261) 6.30 The Wind in the Willows (2262261) 6.50 Mr Men and Little Miss (2262261) 7.30 Wizzle's House (2262261) 8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (2262261) 8.30 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (T) (2262261) 9.00 Sticks Around (T) (2262261) 9.30 Wishbone (T) (1123784) 10.00 The End of the Secret Series: Secret of Killmanjaro (2262261)

11.50 Animal X-Files (2262261) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (2262261) 12.30pm Family Affairs (T) (T) (2262261) 1.00 5 News Update (2262261) 1.05 Rac: Surling the Volcano (2262261) 1.35 Knight Rider (2262261) 2.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 3.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 3.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 4.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 4.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 5.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 5.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 6.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 6.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 7.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 7.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 8.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 8.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 9.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 9.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 10.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 10.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 11.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 11.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 12.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 12.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.05 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.35 Knight Rider (2262261) 2.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 3.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 3.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 4.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 4.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 5.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 5.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 6.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 6.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 7.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 7.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 8.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 8.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 9.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 9.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 10.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 10.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 11.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 11.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 12.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 12.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.05 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.35 Knight Rider (2262261) 2.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 3.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 3.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 4.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 4.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 5.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 5.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 6.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 6.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 7.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 7.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 8.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 8.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 9.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 9.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 10.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 10.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 11.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 11.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 12.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 12.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.05 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.35 Knight Rider (2262261) 2.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 3.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 3.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 4.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 4.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 5.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 5.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 6.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 6.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 7.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 7.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 8.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 8.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 9.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 9.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 10.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 10.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 11.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 11.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 12.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 12.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.05 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.35 Knight Rider (2262261) 2.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 3.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 3.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 4.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 4.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 5.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 5.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 6.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 6.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 7.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 7.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 8.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 8.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 9.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 9.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 10.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 10.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 11.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 11.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 12.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 12.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.05 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.35 Knight Rider (2262261) 2.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 3.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 3.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 4.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 4.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 5.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 5.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 6.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 6.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 7.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 7.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 8.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 8.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 9.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 9.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 10.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 10.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 11.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 11.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 12.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 12.30 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.00 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.05 Knight Rider (2262261) 1.35 Knight Rider (2262261) 2.

TENNIS 36

British game set to benefit from rising stars



Finney: knighted

TOM FINNEY, one of the best players in the history of English football, heads the roll of British sportsmen and women receiving awards in the New Year's Honours List.

Finney, who is knighted, is joined by three others from the world of football, while there are also honours for leading figures in racing, rugby union, athletics, golf, cricket, netball and swimming.

At the age of 75, Finney is the third former player, after Bobby Charlton and Stanley Matthews, to be knighted for his playing achievements.

Known as the Preston Plumber, Finney played 76 times for England, scoring 30 goals. Primarily a right-winger but versatile enough to play anywhere in the forward line, he joined the groundstaff at Preston North End at the age of 16 and stayed at the club throughout a distinguished 22-year career. He is the club's life president.

"I'm delighted and thrilled," he said yesterday. "It's a great way to start the new year."

Charlton was generous in his praise for one of his England predecessors. "It's just marvellous," he said. "He's a great man who has

contributed so much to football. I couldn't be more pleased."

Derek Shaw, the deputy chairman of Preston, spoke for the club and the whole of the Lancashire town. "It's news that the people of Preston have been waiting for for many a year," he said.

Football's three other honours go to Mark Hughes, the Chelsea and Wales forward, Jim Leighton, the veteran Scotland goalkeeper, and Dario Gradi, the long-serving manager of Crewe Alexandra. They are all appointed MBE.

Few in football deserve recognition more than Hughes,

who has won four winners' medals in FA Cup Finals. When he was in his pomp in the late Eighties and early Nineties, the would have been an automatic selection for more highly-rated international teams than Wales.

Martin Johnson, who captained the first British Isles rugby union team to win a series in South Africa for 23 years, is joined by Jack Rowell, the former England coach, in being appointed OBE. "I am surprised and delighted to be honoured," Johnson said. "If I had been told at the start of 1997 that so much would happen to me

during the year, I would not have believed it. My award represents a huge tribute to my Lions colleagues' performances."

Rowell, a hugely successful coach for two decades, admitted to having a tear in his eye when told of his award. He became England coach in 1994 after guiding Bath to five league titles and eight cup triumphs and led the national side to the grand slam in 1995 and the triple crown and the five nations' championship the following year.

Appearances in six Olympic Games from 1976 to 1996 made Tessa Sanderson, an

CRICKET 38

Edwards looks back on world cup that marked coming of age



Finney enlarges famous company of wingers

Toothless Northampton pay penalty for making too many mistakes

Bath throw off vulnerable air to triumph

Bath.....26
Northampton.....3

By NICOLAS ANDREWS

BATH ended a year that they would rather forget with a scrappy and, for the most part, unmemorable encounter with Northampton at the Recreation Ground yesterday. However, tries from Earnshaw and Nicol in the last 11 minutes not only relieved the tedium but suggested that Bath might yet recover more than their pride before the season is out.

The Heineken Cup final against Brive, of course, still beckons after 12 months in which Bath have lost not only their director of rugby, head coach and all their silverware, but also the aura of invincibility that had carried them so far so long.

They were again vulnerable for an even first 60 minutes against a pretty toothless Northampton side before Callard kicked his fourth penalty goal to give Bath a nine-point cushion. Then, with

Perry and Peters on for Butland and Webster and Catt moving to fly half, Bath found another gear to ensure them of their fifth league win of the season. More importantly, it took them into the upper echelons of the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division for the first time in this campaign.

It had all begun so unpromisingly with almost nothing to commend the first 40 minutes. Paul Grayson pulled an early penalty goal attempt wide of the posts for Northampton, but scoring opportunities were otherwise in short supply. Grayson finally got things moving after 30 minutes when Bath were judged guilty of pushing in a lineout.

The score appeared to galvanise Bath and, after their most coherent attack of the half, Callard kicked a simple penalty to level the scores. He gave Bath a 6-3 interval lead after Northey had been penalised for obstruction and shown a yellow card for subsequent dissent. It was a refereeing decision with which Bath might have also dis-

agreed, given that Thorneycroft's clearance kick had fallen to Adebayo with the line at his mercy when the referee's whistle blew.

Clive Woodward, the England coach, and Jack Rowell, his immediate predecessor, were both looking on from the stand as Bath began with Butland at fly half, Catt in the centre and Perry on the bench. It was no coincidence that Bath's victory dash began when Perry came on and Catt moved to No 10.

Earnshaw's try, though, owed much to the speed of Dan Lyle, who collected Townsend's attempted clearance and then tore through the heart of the Northampton defence. The American's overhead inside pass reached Callard, who found Earnshaw and the Cambridge Blue scored his fourth try in nine starts since joining Bath. Callard converted. Andy Long came on for Mark Regan at hooker, then Perry broke out of his own 22 and Earnshaw was again on hand, this time to supply the pass to put Nicol in under the posts.

"We made too many mistakes at the wrong times when the key points were on offer in the first 50 minutes," Ian McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, said afterwards. "You don't do that down here. It was letting that nine-point gap open up that changed it."

Andy Robinson, his opposite number, was impressed with his team's superior fitness and improved ball retention in the last quarter. "As soon as we kept the ball, we put a bit of pattern on the game," he said.

SCORES: Bath: 19, Earnshaw (60m), Nicol (70), Conversion: Callard 2, Penalty: Callard 4 (25, 40, 44, 61). Northampton: 3, Grayson (31). **SCORING:** Grayson (pen), 3-3, 3-3 (full-time), 9-3, 12-3, 19-3, 26-3. **BATH:** Callard, 1; Earnshaw, P; de Garville (10), M. Kayson (10m), M. Catt, A. Adenot; R. Butland, A. Nicol; K. Yates (10), J. Mallin, 25-40, M. Regan (10), A. Long, 55, V. Long (10), M. Lyle, 10-14, S. Lyles, N. Redman, R. Earnshaw, R. Webster (10), E. Peters, 50, D. Lyle (10), R. Palmer, 74. **NORTHAMPTON:** J. Bell, J. Sleight, G. Townsend, A. Northey, H. Thorneycroft; P. Simpson (10), M. Hunter, 62, J. Shepherd, G. Pugh, A. Charles, M. Stewart (10), M. Volland, 55, J. Phillips, J. Chandler, O. Mackinnon (10), G. Baily, 58, A. Fourie, 1. **Referee:** G. Hughes (Manchester).



Chandler, the Northampton lock, tries to maintain balance as he wins a lineout

Two-man farce enjoys short run

David Powell reports on moves to end head-to-head competition in athletics

THIS being the pantomime season, what better time to recall sport's best farce of 1997? *The Dumbing Down of Athletics*, starring Michael Johnson and Donovan Bailey, ran for one evening. Never to be repeated or imitated.

Bailey and Johnson raced head-to-head over 150 metres at the Toronto SkyDome in June in an attempt to show who was the world's fastest man. The image of the sport took such a beating, though—oh, yes it did—that the curtains have been drawn on future productions.

One-to-one competition is to be outlawed by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). Giorgio Reineri, the IAAF head of public relations, said yesterday that the world governing body would in future enforce a law insisting that no races would be allowed with fewer than three athletes.

"The IAAF will not give permission for this kind of competition," Reineri said.

"We have to save the spirit of competition and that means three or more athletes," Johnson pulled up injured before halfway. Bailey accused him of feigning injury and the two men fell out. Meanwhile, Ray Flynn, Bailey's manager, talked of a rematch in the United States.



Bailey looks back at Johnson in their Toronto clash, the like of which the IAAF will no longer allow

On the same weekend, Haile Gebrselassie, the Olympic 10,000 metres champion from Ethiopia, and Noureddine Morceli, the 1500 metres Olympic champion from Algeria, met in Hengelo, Holland. They were drawn together by a \$1 million pot for the man who could break eight minutes for two miles.

Promoted on a ticket of seeing one man run two four-minute miles without stopping, athletics now had the eyes of the world upon it. But the script went horribly wrong.

The Hengelo race failed, like Toronto, to live up to its billing. The \$1 million jackpot went unclaimed and Morceli did not even finish. However, at least with an 11-man field, the sport's laws were adhered to and Gebrselassie ran the fastest two miles in history, 8min 1.05sec.

Ironically, Daniel Komen, of Kenya, broke the barrier without fuss seven weeks later, recording 7:58.61 in Hechtel, Belgium.

Shearer on fast track to return within a month

By DAVID MADDOCK

ALAN SHEARER has made a remarkable recovery from the ankle injury that threatened his career. The Newcastle United and England forward's return to fitness is so far ahead of schedule that he could be playing again by the end of next month, according to sources at St James' Park.

Shearer has settled into a twice-daily training routine, working out with the first team squad at Newcastle's Durham training camp in the morning and then having a strenuous private session at a local gym in the afternoon.

The results have astounded the doctors who have helped ease him back towards fitness. They feared originally for his career and that, if he played again, it would not be until March at the earliest.

Shearer ruptured ankle ligaments and broke a bone in his shin during a pre-season tournament at Goodison Park last July. A similar ankle injury kept Graeme Le Saux, the Chelsea and former Blackburn Rovers defender, out of the game for a year, but Shearer appears to have defied medical logic.

He has pencilled in two possible cup dates at the end of next month: an FA Cup fourth-round tie on January 24—should Newcastle beat Everton in the third round on Sunday—and the first leg of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final on January 28—if Newcastle overcome Liverpool in the quarter-final next week.

Shearer has twice returned a month quicker than predicted after groin operations and also recovered two months ahead of schedule after a cruciate ligament operation.

The news will be welcomed by Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, who appointed Shearer captain this year. He has devised a playing system for the World Cup finals in June that revolves around the forward's strong-running style.

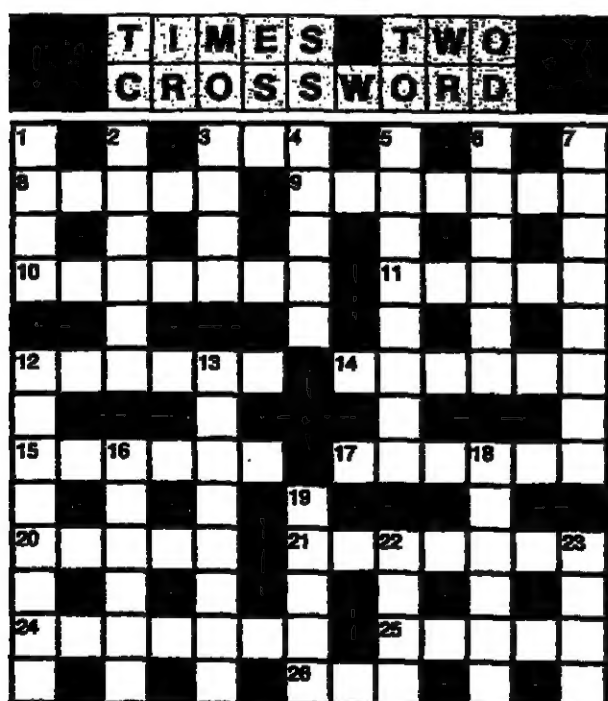
Emerson, the Middlesbrough midfielder, contacted his club yesterday to admit that he had no intention of returning from his native Brazil. The midfielder player was allowed to travel home for Christmas, but he failed to show for a Nationwide League first division game against Stockport County.

Yesterday, Keith Lamb, the club's chief executive, confirmed that Emerson would not be seen at the Riverside again. "Emerson never came back to Middlesbrough," Lamb said. "If that is his attitude, then fine, we will not concern ourselves with a player who does not want to play for the club."

The Brazilian is hoping for a move to Tenerife. The Spanish club made an inquiry for him before Christmas. Middlesbrough will allow him to leave for a fee of £5 million.

Sutton completed the free transfer of Mickael Madar, the France international, yesterday from Deportivo La Coruña, of Spain.

Moore's mission, page 41



No 1290

ACROSS

- 3 Enormous bird (5/10)
- 5 Jewelled headpiece (5)
- 9 Stir up, make anxious (7)
- 10 Loss of wit (7)
- 11 Increased (5)
- 12 Brigand (5)
- 14 Lowest parts (of egg sea) (6)
- 15 Cite (as example) (6)
- 17 Jail (6)
- 20 Seams cloth (5)
- 21 Got thinner towards end (7)
- 24 Academic class (7)
- 25 Forearm joint (5)
- 26 Act as crew of (5)

DOWN

- 1 Restrain; word root (4)
- 2 Excuse (6)
- 3 Spiced contest; rapid current (4)
- 4 Motive; lawsuit (5)
- 5 Shak, tragedy (4/4)
- 6 Go to restaurant; each (3/3)
- 7 Idylls of the King poet (3)
- 12 Wave threateningly (5)
- 13 Arriving; new (eg government) (5)
- 16 Generator; energetic person (6)
- 18 Belgrade its capital (6)
- 19 Tempest (5)
- 22 Chessman; dupe (4)
- 23 Responsibility; tax (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1289

ACROSS: 1 Candid 5 Juggle 8 Jamb 9 Sideline
10 Pergola 11 Bland 13 Rock the boat 16 Slide
18 Obscure 21 Bracelet 22 Vain 23 Marlow 24 Marley

DOWN: 2 Amateur 3 Debut 4 Desolate 5 Jude
6 Galileo 7 Lenin 12 Verbatim 14 Codicil 15 Terrace
17 Larva 19 Cover 20 Claw

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